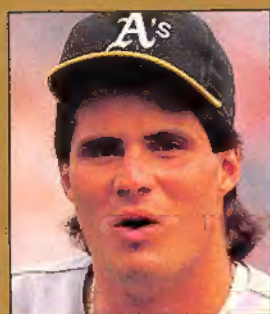
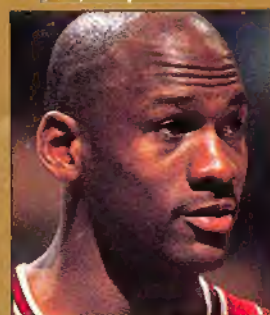


INSIDE

## SPORTS



Jose Canseco  
\$54,324 per homer



Michael Jordan  
\$926 per point



Wayne Gretzky  
\$43,000 per goal



Darryl Strawberry  
\$17,130 per RBI

1991  
SPORTS  
\$ALARIES

Who's Worth It, and Who's Not!



David Robinson  
\$2,085 per rebound



Al Unser Jr.  
\$121,052 per race



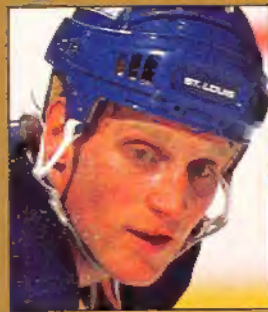
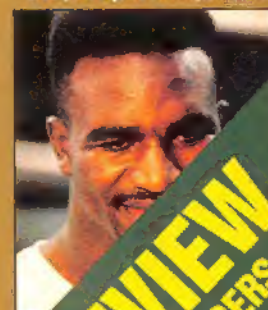
Lawrence Taylor  
\$242,857 per sack



Mike Tyson  
\$1,541,667 per round



Joe Montana  
\$12,461 per completion



Brett Hull  
\$1,736 per goal



Roger Clemens  
\$12,400 per strikeout

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# MENTAL



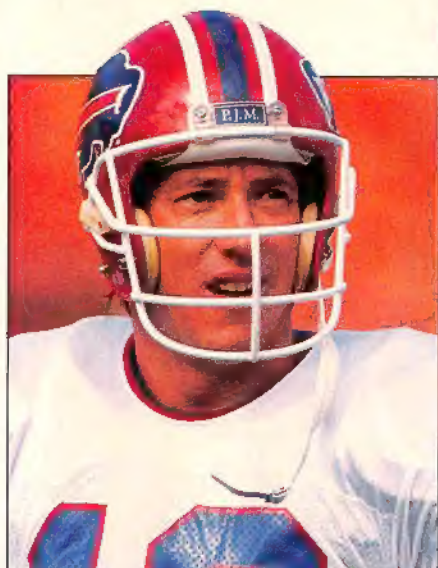
A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and brown pants is pulling a thick, dark rope. The person's arm and hand are visible, gripping the rope firmly. The background is a light, textured surface.

# boro

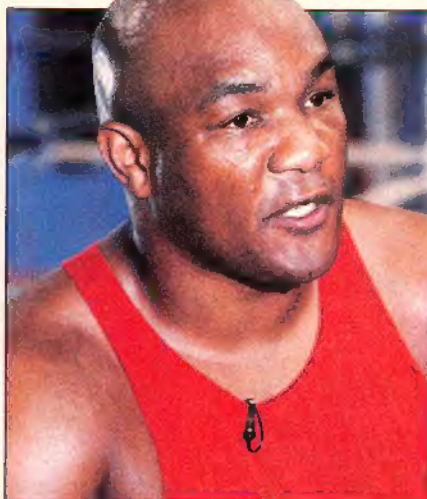
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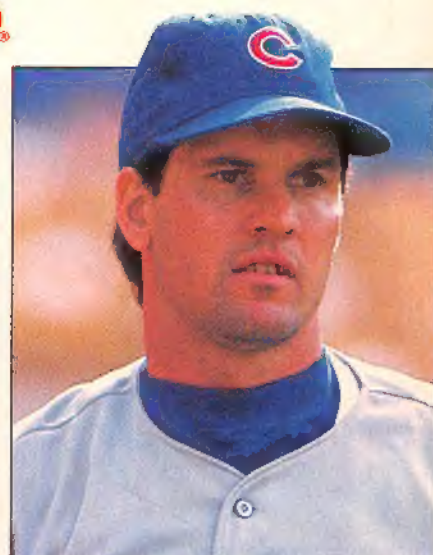




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- **Football:** Undervalued players and old but rich quarterbacks
- **Hockey:** Top goal-to-dollar and muscle-to-money ratios
- **Basketball:** Dollars per point and stars who took a cut
- **Boxing:** Overpaid pugilists and out-of-the-ring endeavors
- **Auto Racing:** Emerson Fittipaldi's one-man empire

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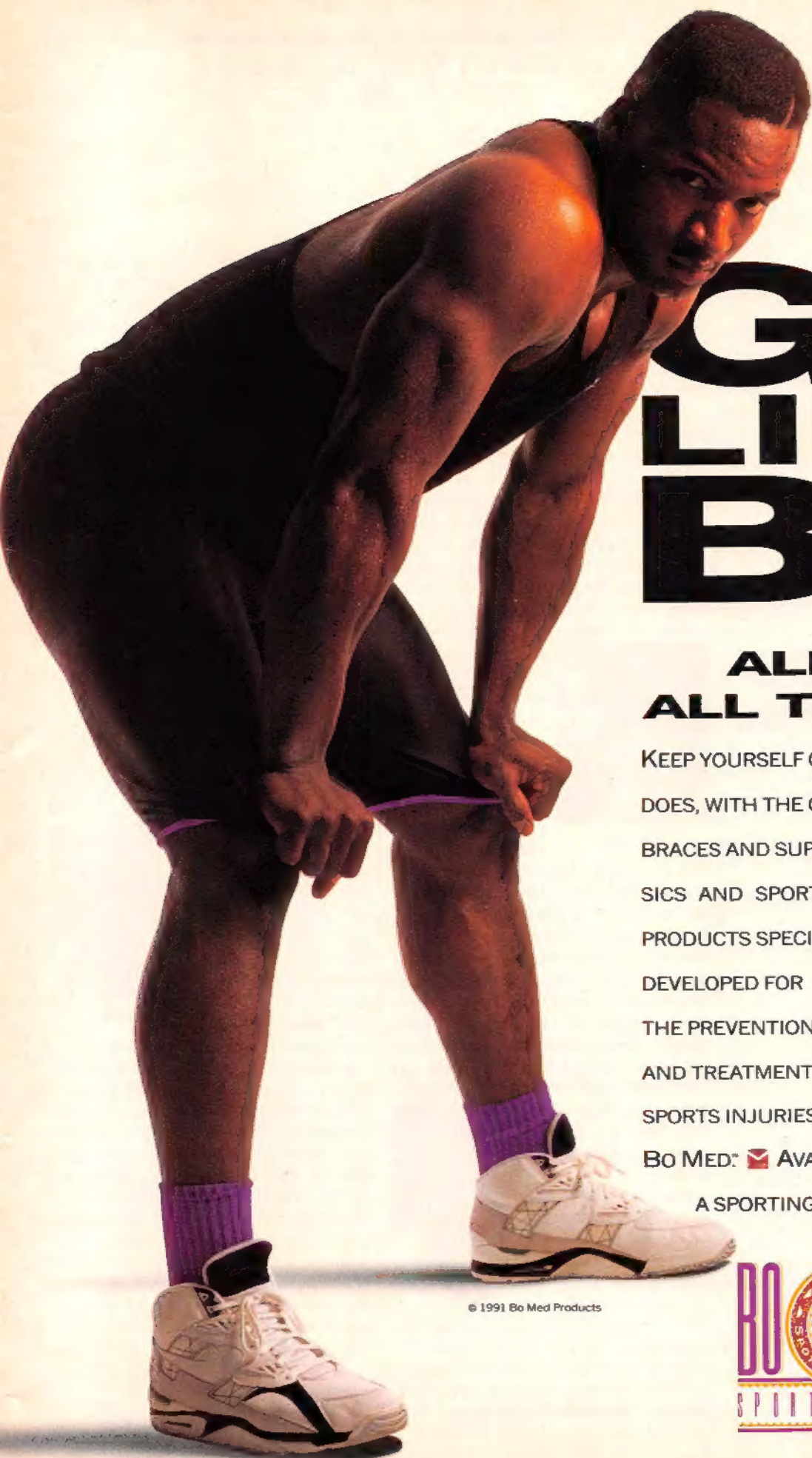


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**Business & Editorial Office**  
Inside Sports  
990 Grove St., Evanston, IL 60201-4370  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE, SO why should sports be any different? Athletes today are enjoying greater financial prosperity than ever before. For example, there will be at least 23 major league baseball players earning \$3 million during the 1991 season, and that's no small cabbage.

This month, you'll gain an entirely unique perspective on salaries in our "Sports Salaries" special report. Is Jeff George worth \$228,125 for every touchdown he tosses? Should Kevin Mitchell be paid \$60,229 per home run? Is Wayne Gretzky underpaid at \$43,000 per goal, considering the financial impact he made in turning the Los Angeles Kings franchise around? In this section we measure how much various athletes earn against their performance and point out



GRETZKY

who's worth the dough and who's overpaid. Judge for yourself, starting on page 31. Anyone following baseball during this past offseason saw a whirlwind of activity among the 26 major league teams. Many impact players switched uniforms and leagues, thus shifting the balance of power in each league's divisions. In the National League East, the acquisition of 1987 American League MVP George Bell has bolstered the Chicago Cubs' already potent lineup, which now includes three former MVPs. The Cubbies, who also added starting pitcher Danny Jackson from the world champion Cincinnati Reds and relief pitcher Dave Smith from the Houston Astros to strengthen their staff, get our nod to finish atop the NL East.

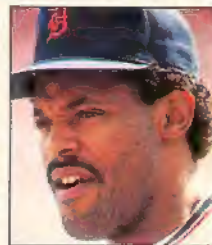
The most dominant division in baseball still will be in the West, but not necessarily in the American League. In a division where virtually every team has upgraded its roster, the NL West's Los Angeles Dodgers may prove to be unstoppable. With the Dodgers' acquisition of Darryl Strawberry, Brett Butler, and Bob Ojeda, fans in L.A. will have reason to smile this season.



CANSECO

In the American League, the Toronto Blue Jays, with Joe Carter and Roberto Alomar arriving via San Diego, will be too tough to beat in the East. The Oakland A's, with returning Cy Young award winner Bob Welch, will shake off last year's World Series pasting and once again reign supreme in the West. Join veteran expert writers Bob Klapisch and Paul Ladewski (who has correctly predicted the American League division winners the last three years) as they break down the 26 major league teams, analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, beginning on page 54.

Perhaps no other baseball player in recent memory has risen from obscurity to national prominence in such a short period of time as Detroit's slugging first baseman, Cecil Fielder. Fielder revved up Motown with 51 home runs last season, the first major leaguer to accomplish the 50 home run feat since George Foster hit 52 in 1977. The soft-spoken, gentle giant who rarely grants interviews sat down with Tom Pedulla and reflected on his rapid rise to baseball stardom and his historic season. This revealing interview begins on page 22.



FIELDER

CBS not only made headlines in dishing out a record \$1.06 billion for the rights to major league baseball but also received considerable criticism for its lack of coverage. However, baseball was only the biggest blow in a financial bloodbath for CBS, when its "dream season" turned into a nightmare of anticlimactic, abbreviated championship series in every sport. Join media expert Bob Rubin as he analyzes CBS's inaugural season of baseball coverage and reveals what goals the network hopes to accomplish this season. The story begins on page 18.

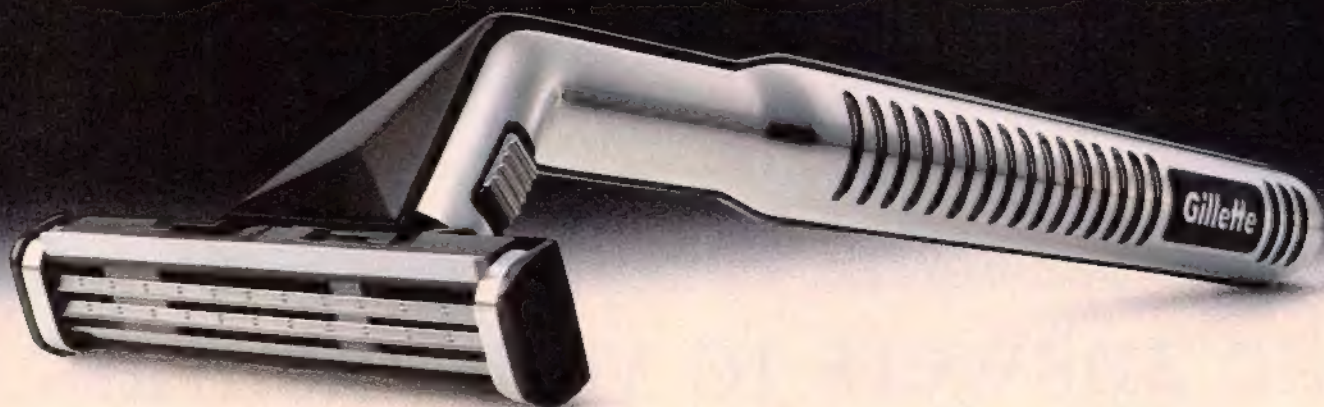


GEORGE

Michael K. Herbert



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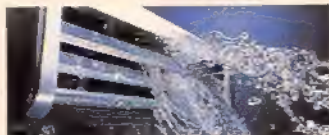
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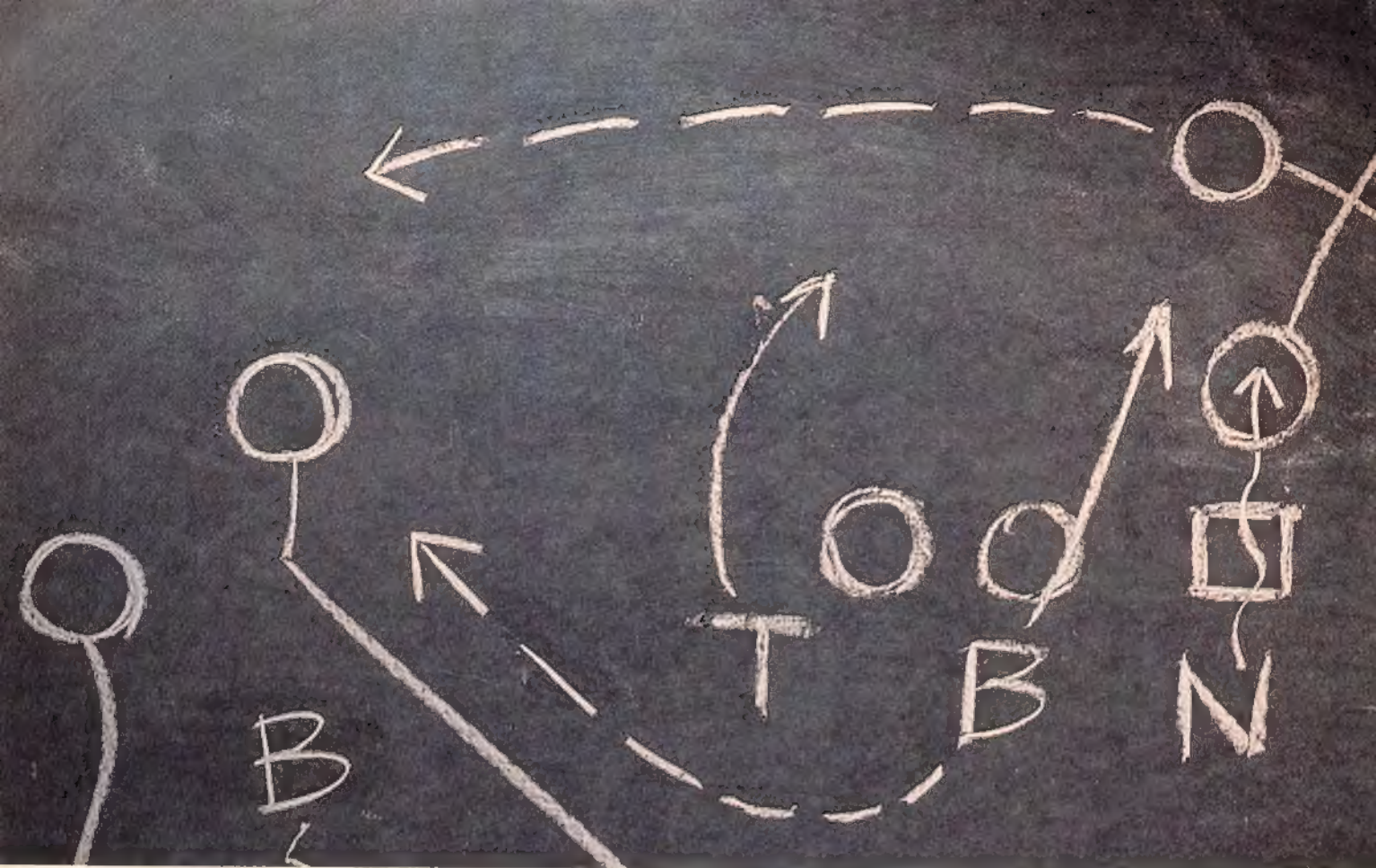
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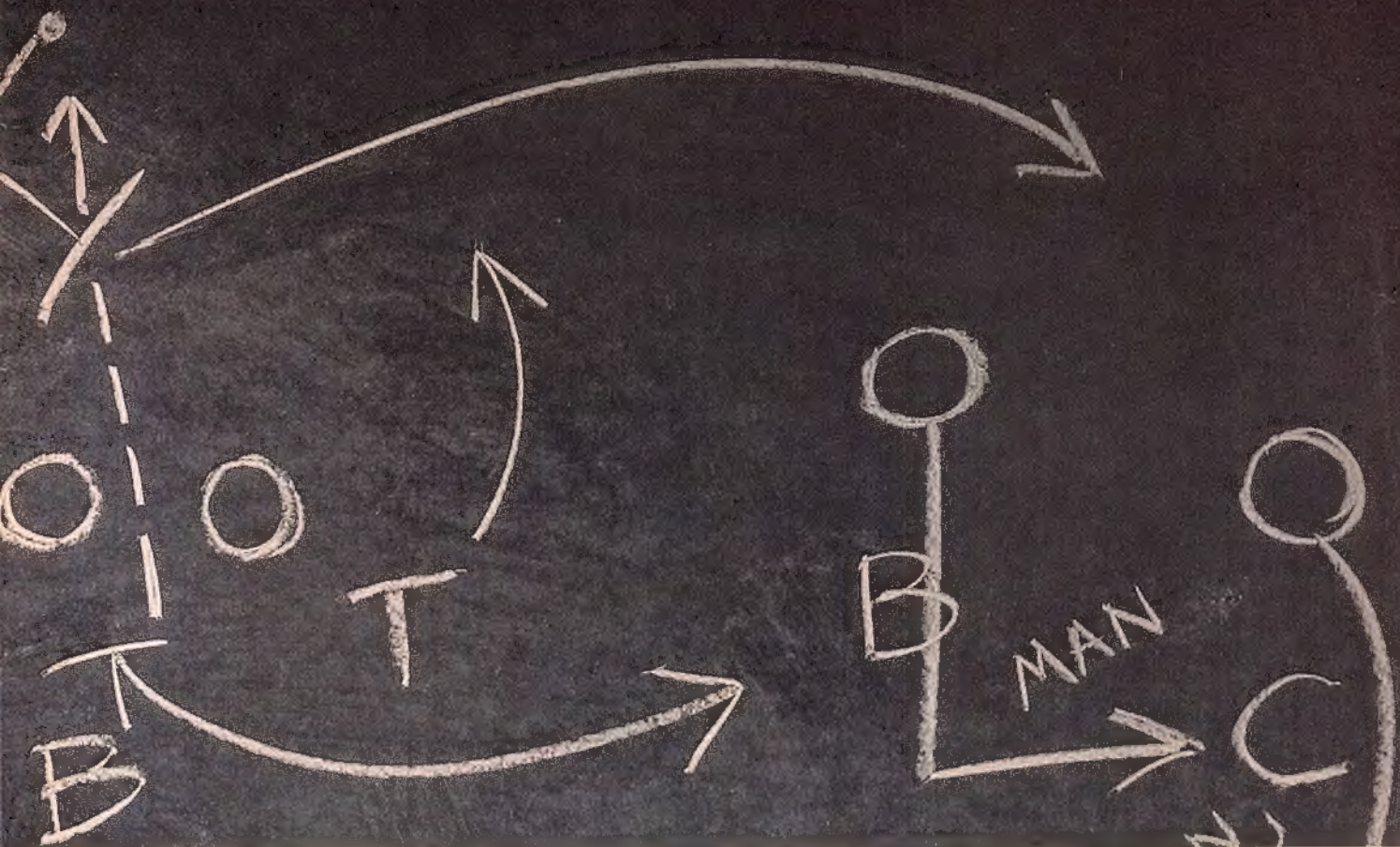
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## A REAL BRONX CHEER

### Maas Wasn't Buried With a Wounded Knee

AS KEVIN MAAS LAY ON THE GROUND ON JULY 26, 1989, and looked at his ravaged knee, he made a decision about the rest of his life.

The pain emanating from his right knee was telling Maas, an outfielder on the New York Yankees Triple-A team, what a doctor would later confirm: His season was over. His anterior cruciate ligament—and his immediate major league aspirations—had been ripped apart.

In a funny way, though, the injury gave his world more order. The young slugger, then 24, was facing a dilemma. The Yankees had promised him a spot with the big club in September, which was great news—except that then he could not, as planned, return to the University of California at Berkeley to earn the final four credits for his mechanical engineering degree. Maas, a devout Christian, had been praying for guidance on which lifetime goal he should pursue. Now, as he reclined near first base in Bush Stadium in Indianapolis and watched as trainers probed his knee, he knew he had received a sign—and it wasn't the hit-and-run.

"It was just clear to me at that point that baseball was not going to work out for me that year," Maas says. "It was obvious I had to go back to school and graduate. I would have second-guessed myself forever if I didn't."

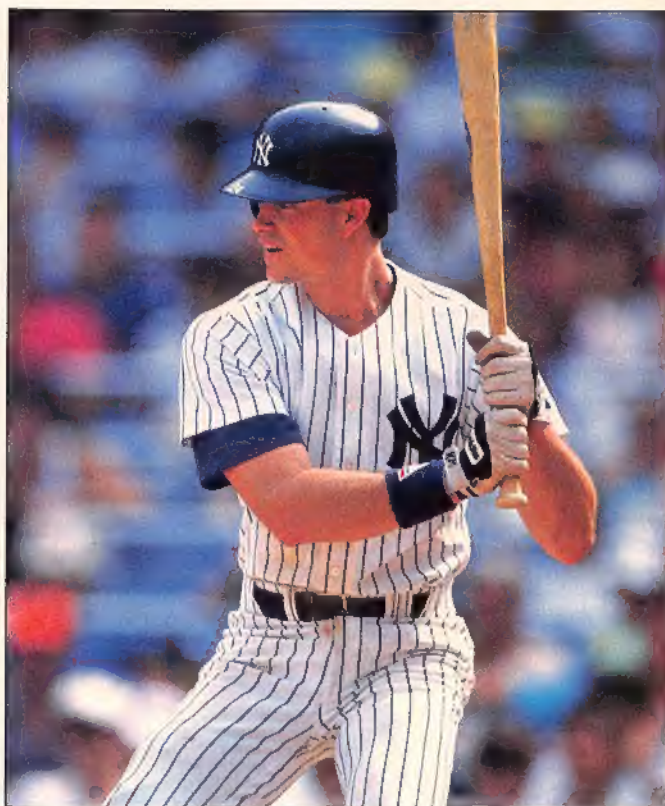
"[The injury] was frustrating right away because I saw my baseball future go down the drain right there. However, that initial frustration gave way quickly. I understood it was more important to go back to school. I had a peace about it, because I could go back and get the degree out of the way and not have one class hanging over my head forever. There was peace, even if my baseball future was uncertain."

That knee injury triggered in Maas the determination to take care of mind and body, and the results were staggeringly successful in both areas. In December 1989 Maas graduated from one of the nation's top schools with a bachelor of science degree. And while he had been hitting the books, Maas also was following a rigorous rehabilitation program.

Maas' rehab began the day of his surgery on August 16, 1989. Dr. Richard Steadman, a believer in aggressive therapy, had Maas walking, squatting, and stretching just hours after cutting into the knee. Kevin Rand, the Yankees' head trainer at their Tampa minor league facility, toiled in tandem with Maas, and now calls the player one of the hardest workers he has encountered. In fact, Rand often uses the word "religious" in describing Maas' devotion to the regimen, because Maas brought the same fervor to his workout program that he brings to his faith.

Maas was ahead of all timetables when he "hit the wall" last March. He developed tendinitis in the knee, and for the first time felt some doubt about ever playing in the majors. "I have to admit I had that," Maas says. "They told me tendinitis was very common and that it would go away in time. But I knew how the leg felt. I was dealing with pain every day, and rest wasn't helping."

Rand points to April 4 as the day he knew everything would be OK. Rand had Maas run wind sprints and—duplicating the



**As Maas found out, sometimes life—or a higher power—has a way of making decisions for you.**

circumstances of the injury—make several sharp turns on the bases. The key hurdle, Rand felt, was sliding. When Maas went into a bag with no knee brace and no fear, Rand realized his pupil was ready for another graduation. Maas rejoined the Yankees' Triple-A team in Columbus, Ohio, on April 29—and then fate stepped in.

Bucky Dent was fired as the Yankees manager, and when Columbus skipper Stump Merrill replaced Dent, Maas followed him on June 28—11 months after he blew out his knee. Maas cranked 15 homers in his first 133 at-bats, the fastest rate in major league history, and finished with 21 round-trippers, the fourth-most by any Yankees rookie ever.

It seems like a script too corny for Hollywood: The handsome boy wonder blows out his knee, but instead of wallowing in self-pity he returns to school, gets his degree, and before the curtain falls makes it all the way to the majors to thrill the fans with prodigious home runs. Corny or not, though, Maas was a blessing for a dispirited team.

"You find yourself rooting for the Kevin Maases of the world," Merrill says. "He's a quality kid. If you had a son, you would want him to behave and project himself the way Kevin Maas does."

—JOEL SHERMAN



One might think  
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## LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

## Penske Downshifts the Super Team

IN 1990 ROGER PENSKE ASSEMBLED A SUPER TEAM THAT looked like a mating of the San Francisco 49ers, the Detroit Pistons, and the Oakland Athletics. It boasted a blend of speed, savvy, and experience.

With Emerson Fittipaldi, Rick Mears, and Danny Sullivan on board, Penske figured to run roughshod over his CART/PPG Indy Car competition. After all, he had two-time Formula One world driving champion Fittipaldi, oval-track master Mears, and road racing bully Sullivan carrying the colors. Between them, this talented trio owned five Indianapolis 500 triumphs, 50 CART victories, five CART championships, and 53 pole positions. Even though it's tough enough to have success with one car—let alone three—Penske had done it quite well each May for several years with a two-man team, and it was easy to predict a dominating performance by the Big Three.

But a Penske-perfect season it wasn't. In 16 races Roger's boys took the checkered flag just four times. That's not bad by most team's standards, but certainly not up to lofty achievements "The Captain" had in mind.

"I was disappointed, of course, but I couldn't have been any more dedicated," said Penske, whose cars have won seven Indianapolis 500s, more than any other owner in Indy history. "And we won five races counting the Marlboro Challenge, a number of poles [nine], and Emerson was dominating at Indianapolis and Michigan before he had problems.

"This is a very competitive series, and I don't know if we would have had any more success with a two-car team."

Of course, the problem wasn't with the guys pushing the throttle pedal. Other than on the superspeedways, the Lola chassis proved superior to the Penske-Chevy 90. Al Unser Jr. and Michael Andretti, both in Lolas, came up with six and five victories, respectively, as Unser captured the CART crown.

Still, even though the three-man rotation wasn't to blame, Penske's load was lightened for 1991. Sullivan—who, ironically, led the team with two victories in '90—was cut loose after six years and 12 victories, including the memorable "spin-and-win" in the '85 Indianapolis 500.

Sullivan, who faces a big question mark in '91 after signing on with Pat Patrick's stable and the suspect Alfa Romeo engine, was simply the odd man out. Penske is understandably loyal to Mears, and Marlboro's money (reportedly \$30 million for three years) rides with Fittipaldi. It was nothing personal, according to Penske, just business.

"The effect of our three-car results had nothing to do with my decision," said Penske. "It was strictly contract commitments I had made going into 1990. I wasn't able to put the pieces together for three cars, and Danny knew that out front."

Sullivan wasn't the only departure from Penske's team. Pennzoil, the major sponsor of Mears' car since 1983, also said goodbye. "We've got one primary sponsor for the first time in many years," acknowledged Penske, "and they're used to winning in Formula One, so our goal is to try and match McLaren's performance."



**Penske ran an unprecedented three cars in 1990, but spent the year watching the other cars go by.**

Keeping up with Ayrton Senna and the McLaren-Honda powerhouse is a huge assignment, but if anybody can do it, it's probably Penske.

—ROBIN MILLER

## GIVE 'EM A BREAK

## Jordan Slam Dunks the All-Star Weekend

THREE SUGGESTIONS BY MICHAEL JORDAN TO IMPROVE next year's NBA's All-Star Weekend:

**1. Extend the All-Star break.** "The majority of players get a three-day break, but those who participate in the skill events and the All-Star Game get no time off when you include the travel involved. The regular-season schedule doesn't allow for much rest. I'm sure the majority of us would like the break extended another day or two. Not only would it reward the best players, but [it might] improve the quality of play."

**2. Back off the slam dunk.** "Most fans take for granted just how difficult it is to be creative year after year in the slam-dunk event. I know that I've accomplished just about everything I'm capable of doing in the event. The event generates too much excitement to do away with it, but if it was rotated with another event every other year, then maybe everyone would have a chance to recharge their batteries."

**3. Up the stakes.** "Personally, the current method is fine with me, but a lot of people seem to think the players don't compete as hard as they should. I can't speak for all of them, but if the prize was right, then I believe the players wouldn't object to a winner-take-all prize. What prize would be right? Maybe about \$50,000 per man. Even the coaches would take the game a bit more seriously."

—PAUL LADEWSKI



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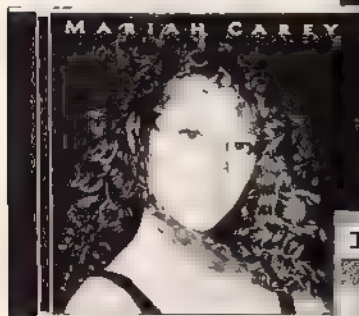


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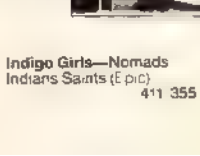
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† Selections with two numbers count as two selections—write each number in a separate box.

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## Gretzky's 17-game string for L.A. isn't close to his skein as an Oiler.

**During Wayne Gretzky's 51-game scoring streak in 1983-84, how many one-point games did he have? How many two-pointers, and so on?**

**M. P., Philadelphia**

During that streak (which Mario Lemieux nearly equaled in 1989-90, when he went 46 games with at least one point) Gretzky had the following: 14 one-point games; 10 two-pointers; 11 three-pointers, including one hat trick; four four-point games; eight five-pointers, including four hat tricks and one five-assist game; one each at six and seven points (a goal and five assists against Quebec, four goals and three assists against Winnipeg); and two eight-point games (three goals and five assists against New Jersey, four goals and four assists against Minnesota).

**How many times did Chris Evert beat Martina Navratilova in the finals of the U.S. Open? My brother says they never played in the final. I'm sure they did.**

**S. C. S., Winston-Salem, N.C.**

Evert and Navratilova met twice in the U.S.

Open finals (1983 and '84), but Navratilova won both times. Evert won the title six times, but never by defeating Navratilova. Her victories were in 1975 and '76 (Evyonne Goolagong), 1977 (Wendy Turnbull), 1978 (Pam Shriver), and 1980 and '82 (Hana Mandlikova).

**I've heard that there was an American woman in archery who won a gold medal in the Olympics without ever having competed in an international meet. Is it true, and if so, who was she?**

**D. O., Eden Prairie, Minn.**

Luann Ryon, the 1976 gold medalist at Montreal, made her international-level debut at those Olympics. Asked why she had never been in an international, Ryon smiled and said, "I never got around to it."

**I'm too young to remember the WFL. When did it exist, what was its championship game called, and who were its champions?**

**G. W., McHenry, Ill.**

The World Football League was born in 1973

and died in the middle of its second season in 1975. Its championship game was called the World Bowl—there was but one—and the Birmingham Americans beat the Florida Blazers 22-21.

**If an NBA player playing defense accidentally makes a shot for the other team, who gets credit?**

**A. K., Washington, D.C.**

The player on the offensive team who last touched the ball gets credit for the points.

**How is the NFL drafting order decided when teams finish with the same record, especially when they didn't play each other?**

**C. A., Providence**

Unlike with playoff tiebreakers and overall standings, head-to-head competition never has a bearing in the draft. As league spokesman Joe Browne explains: "In the 1990 season the Falcons, Broncos, and Rams all were 5-11. The team that played the easiest overall schedule, the Falcons, earned the higher draft selection [No. 3]." The Broncos and Rams tied on strength of schedule and Denver won a coin-flip for the No. 4 pick.

Difficulty of schedule is determined by the won-lost records of a team's opponents. By that criterion, the Cardinals did the worst with the easiest set of opponents and would have drafted higher than the Pats and Bucs in the first round.

**Have any players hit 30 or more homers for three different major league teams? Or four?**

**B. W., Carlisle, Pa.**

The only player to do it for four teams was Bobby Bonds, and it could be argued he achieved the feat with five. Bonds did it three times with San Francisco (1969, '71, and '73), in 1975 with the Yankees, in 1977 with the Angels, and in 1978 hit 31 homers while splitting the season between the White Sox and Rangers.

Others who have done it with three teams are Dave Kingman (Mets, Cubs, Athletics), Rocky Colavito (Indians, Tigers, A's), Dick Allen (Phillies, Cardinals, White Sox), Darrell Evans (Braves, Tigers, Giants), Reggie Jackson (A's, Yankees, Angels), and Frank Robinson (Reds, Orioles, Angels). ■

*To uncover obscure sports facts, settle wagers, or unravel confusing trivia, send your questions to: Inside Out, 990 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.*



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By BOB RUBIN

# The 'Big Event' Strategy Backfired for CBS

**C**BS BILLED 1990 AS its "dream season," and on paper the year appeared to be just that. One network would show the Super Bowl, the NCAA basketball championship game, the NBA finals, and all of major league baseball's premier events. That network was CBS.

It was the culmination of the "big event" game plan of CBS Sports president Neal Pilson. The idea was that cable would dominate coverage of regular-season games and build tremendous interest in post-season playoffs. There would be only one place to watch those: on CBS. Exclusivity was a key element in the big event scheme. On paper, it made sense—only they don't play the games on paper:

Super Bowl: San Francisco 49ers 55, Denver Broncos 10. Yawn.

NCAA title game: Nevada-Las Vegas 103, Duke 73. Snore.

NBA finals: Detroit Pistons 4, Portland (small, unsexy Portland) Trail Blazers 1. Zzzzz.

Then came baseball. Oy. Take me out to the bawl game. Miscalculation, poor timing, inexperience, and continued bad luck combined to plague CBS. Its rookie season was an aesthetic disappointment and a financial disaster. CBS lost \$55 million after taxes on its first year of baseball, and projects additional post-tax losses of \$115 million over the final three years of its contract. It asked baseball for relief, suggesting several approaches—a rebate, a reduction in future payments, an added fifth year at bargain rates, or the right to televise more games at little or no charge.



*A combination of miscalculation, poor timing, inexperience, and bad luck made the network's rookie year in baseball an aesthetic disappointment and a financial disaster.*

Over the past winter, baseball owners, armed with more TV money than they'd ever seen, went on a wild spending spree for free agents. They're also faced with paying whopping fines for their collusion loss in court. They're not enthused about the idea of giving anything back to CBS—no surprise there—but the feeling was they would, in time, grant CBS some relief on the grounds that an unhappy, bleeding partner serves no one's interests. However, there was no sympathy whatsoever from the other major networks. ABC and NBC blamed CBS for getting itself in such a mess by grossly overpaying for baseball in the first place, and in the process costing them money as well by creating a ripple effect that inflated the TV rights fees of other sports properties, notably those of the NFL.

CBS won exclusive rights for baseball in the spring of '88 with a bid of \$1.06 billion, and the shock waves rocked Network Row. Art Watson, then the president of NBC Sports, called it the largest overpayment in his years in the business. Brandon Tartikoff, chairman of NBC's entertainment division, went nuclear, calling it "the worst deal ever made."

In one sense, CBS was the victim of bad timing. Saturated with inventory (thanks in large measure to the explosion of sports carried on cable), the advertising market for sports programming went into the dumper just after CBS went for a bill. For example, the price of a 30-second spot for the World Series dropped from \$300,000 to \$240,000. That continuing soft market has analysts predicting CBS will take another bath on the upcoming NCAA

basketball tournament, another property for which it paid dearly for exclusivity. In another sense, though, CBS was victimized with baseball by the same kind of bad luck it suffered in earlier big events during the "dream season."

The All-Star Game was delayed 68 minutes by rain in the 7th inning; by the time it resumed, a huge segment of the viewing audience was lost. The American League Championship Series and the World Series were both sweeps, and the loss of as many as six postseason games was a painful economic blow. By one estimate, CBS lost \$5 million for each playoff game and \$15.4 million for each World Series game that went unplayed.

Ironically, the billion-dollar baseball bid was conceived and executed by Pilson, long



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known as an apostle of fiscal restraint in the matter of bidding for sports properties. Observers recalled a speech he had made in Phoenix to the effect that the era of ever-escalating rights fees was over, or at least it was at CBS.

But Pilson's strategy in going sky-high for baseball involved more than sports. He saw having exclusive rights to postseason play as

guaranteed high ratings, which would allow CBS to hit the ground running in the crucial fall sweeps and provide a terrific opportunity to plug CBS entertainment programming. The idea was that baseball would help move CBS out of second place in the network ratings race, and it did. CBS finished third in the fall sweeps.

Baseball actually seemed to hurt the ratings of CBS entertainment programming. CBS had a fine first week in the sweeps period, but then baseball pre-empted regular shows for nearly three full weeks instead of the 10 days or so it would have lasted had the baseball package been split between two networks, as was the case before CBS ate the whole thing. With shows off the air that long, any momentum they had generated was lost, and when the final numbers were in for the fall sweeps, CBS had fallen behind ABC into third, both trailing NBC. The loss of millions and the declining ratings were reflected in the fall of CBS stock from a high of \$206.25 to \$151.50 by October.

All this money talk, of course, means little to viewers unless they also happen to be CBS stockholders. What matters to viewers is what they see and who they hear, and on that score CBS experienced predictable growing pains in its first season.

The year began on a traumatic note. Brent Musburger, who had been scheduled to do baseball play-by-play with analyst Tim McCarver, was fired on April 1, just a few days before the start of the season. Musburger, long the signature voice of CBS Sports, departed with a bitter blast at Pilson and executive producer Ted Shaker and signed on with ABC.

There was much speculation that CBS would go after ABC's Al Michaels to do play-by-play, but instead the network surprised the speculators by promoting the longtime voice of the St. Louis Cardinals, the 65-year-old Jack Buck, who had done postseason broadcasts for CBS radio.

Buck and McCarver had known each other for 30 years, going back to when McCarver played in St. Louis, but a good friendship doesn't automatically segue into a good broadcasting team. That takes time

and a lot of games together under a team's belt, and the Buck-McCarver duo had neither. The two were thrown together at the last moment, and they had only a 16-game schedule during the regular season in which to develop a rhythm and chemistry before they were thrust into the glaring spotlight of the playoffs and World Series.

"Though we had been friends a long time,

him up properly with straight lines and leading questions, someone who will engage him in repartee. Often, McCarver would say something that could have led to a lively exchange, only to get silence from Buck. McCarver would press on by himself, and as a result sometimes talk too much and/or repeat himself.

It was the first substantial criticism of

McCarver, who had been a critical hit in his years with the Mets and in postseason stints at ABC, where he teamed with Michaels and Jim Palmer (a rare occasion when three in the booth was not one too many). McCarver says he wasn't upset with the criticism. He says that in the past he has learned from it, like the time he was taken to task for overuse of the word "awesome." He looked at a tape and realized his critic was right. But this time, he defended himself

**"This isn't easy; it takes time, and anyone who thought CBS was going to be an immediate success with baseball was kidding himself." —Tim McCarver**

we were not under the illusion going in that this was going to be a perfect match," McCarver says. "It isn't easy; it takes time, and anyone who thought CBS was going to be an immediate success with baseball was kidding himself. We had cameramen who had never done baseball before—not one game."

CBS's visual coverage improved with time (though there were still instances in the postseason when the camera seemed one step behind the play), but the Buck-McCarver team never hit full stride. Individually, each is outstanding; Buck is in the broadcaster's wing at the Hall of Fame, and it's likely McCarver will join him someday. But the pairing just didn't work.

Perhaps it will work in time. Perhaps we've been spoiled by NBC's splendid coverage of baseball over the years. Bob Costas and Tony Kubek were marvelous, and they were the second team. That's how deep NBC was in talent. CBS wasn't terrible; it just had a very tough act to follow.

Buck is a no-nonsense, no-frills baseball man. You can picture yourself listening to him as you mow the lawn, or while you're fishing. He's low-key, comfortable, like a family member to generations who grew up listening to him in St. Louis.

However, postseason baseball telecasts by a network, like it or not, are far more show business than regular-season games. In addition to hard-core baseball fans, the postseason attracts millions of casual viewers who tune in for the event, not the game. Therefore, the telecast needs pizzazz, electricity, personality. Buck's not your man for that.

McCarver is, but he needs a partner to set

"I think it's the critics who don't understand that it's a different audience in postseason than in the regular season," McCarver said. "You can't make casual comments and take certain knowledge for granted. You have to explain more fully.

"As for talking too much, I haven't changed in eight years. Don Ohlmeyer once said, 'You never talk too much if you have something to say.' I feel I have something to say."

As for the chemistry, or lack of, between him and Buck, McCarver pleaded for more time. "I was thrown into the '85 postseason with Al and Jim without having worked with them before," he said. "I didn't work with them again until two years later. When I looked back at the tapes from '85 and compared them to tapes from '87, I realized I wasn't very good the first time. The point is, the more you work with someone, the more comfortable you get to feel.

"Anyone who thinks individual talents thrown together will immediately produce a smooth, charismatic broadcast is fooling himself. I thought we did a fine job in the World Series. Can we improve? You bet. But are we proud of what we did under the circumstances? You bet. And as a result, I know our confidence level is going to be so much higher this year going in."

They can use every bit of confidence they can muster. That's not a word used often at CBS in connection with baseball, not after the dream season became a nightmare. ■

*Contributing editor BOB RUBIN gets a little misty when spring training rolls around. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the rookie debut of his beloved Mickey Mantle*





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By TOM PEDULLA

# Cecil Fielder

*On his contract: 'That's not my fault; the market has gone wild'*

*On stardom: 'This game is humbling; one day it'll get you back'*

*On his fellow stars: 'A lot of these superstars aren't real people'*

**T**HE JAPANESE CALL CECIL Fielder "Wild Bear." "I don't think it relates to his personality," says sports writer Hiroshi Yoshimura. "He's mild, but his power is wild."

The 27-year-old first baseman has unleashed that wild power on two continents in the last two seasons. When it was clear that he did not fit into Toronto's plans, the Blue Jays sold his contract to the Hanshin Tigers of the Japan Central League before the 1989 season. Fielder made the most of the opportunity by clouting 38 home runs for Hanshin. That was enough to convince the rebuilding Detroit Tigers to gamble on him with a two-year, \$3 million contract. The money could not have been better spent.

Fielder celebrated his return to the U.S. by smashing 51 home runs, the first major leaguer to crack the 50-homer barrier since George Foster slammed 52 for the Cincinnati Reds in 1977 and the 11th all-time.

But Fielder also gained another distinction he could do without. He became only the fourth player to achieve a 50-homer season and be denied the most valuable player award in a year in which no other player also reached that plateau. He was outdistanced by Oakland speedster Rickey Henderson, who received 14 of a possible 28 first-place votes and 317 points to Fielder's 10 first-place votes and 286 points in balloting involving two writers from each American League city.

A disappointed Fielder, who dictated the action so often during the season, was left to cope with a feeling of helplessness. "I did everything I could do," he said during a press conference at Tigers Stadium. "It was a dream season but I can't fill out the ballots. Of course, I feel I should have won. I can't say I didn't have that kind of season. I feel I did. But all you can do is the best you can, and that's what I did."

"I can't go around the country trying to change people's minds. I'm not taking anything away from myself. I did something that's not done every season. An MVP is going to help his team win games. I look at me and Ricky and feel we both did that. Rickey ignites his team. I can't steal bases; I've got to drive the ball."

The decision ultimately boiled down to more than words and individual statistics. The apparent overriding factor simply was where each player's team finished in the standings. While the A's were nine games ahead of the runner-up Chicago White Sox in the West, the third-place Tigers closed nine games behind triumphant Boston in the weak East, with a 79-83 record.

Even Detroit Tigers manager Sparky Anderson indicated during the season his feeling that the MVP should come from a championship-caliber team. The highly respected Anderson never used baseball terms to argue in favor of his player. When Henderson got the nod, Anderson said: "I wish Cecil would have won for other reasons, moreso than just baseball. I wish he would have won for the type of person he is. It proves you can be an outstanding person and still be a good athlete, still perform well."

The media showed their high opinion of Fielder's slugging prowess in other ways. In a national vote of sports writers and broadcasters, he was overwhelmingly selected as the Associated Press player of the year. Fielder received 90½ votes in that balloting to Henderson's 39½.

And there is no doubt that Fielder has joined baseball's elite. He did so because the Tigers—both the Hanshin and the Detroit variety—saw ability when Toronto and Kansas City did not.

Fielder began his pro career as the Royals' fourth-round choice in the June 1982

draft after being an all-state performer in baseball, football, and basketball at Nogales High School in Los Angeles. He gave a hint of future stardom with his showing at Butte, Mont., in 1982, his first professional season, when he pounded a league-leading 20 home runs and was named the Pioneer League's All-Star first baseman. Yet the Royals didn't even keep Fielder around for a second season. They dealt him to Toronto in February 1983 for outfielder Leon Roberts.

Fielder never approached everyday status as a first baseman at the major league level in his six years in the Toronto organization, but even in limited use he showed unmistakable power. He totaled 23 homers for the Blue Jays in 349 at-bats spread over the 1987 and '88 seasons, an average of one home run every 15 at-bats, and when the call came from Japan, "Wild Bear" was born. "I remember he called me talking about the offer," says former Toronto teammate Jesse Barfield, "and he asked me what I thought about it."

"I said, 'Man, you better get out of here and eat some sushi.'"

**INSIDE SPORTS:** What factors were involved in the decision to go to Japan?

**CECIL FIELDER:** It really wasn't a difficult decision, because I had two options. I had the option of going back to Toronto and playing sparingly, or I had the option of going to Japan and playing every day and making a lot more money than I was making in Toronto. For me, it was easy.

**IS:** Was it difficult to uproot your wife, Stacey, and your son, Prince [now six years old]?

**CF:** It was something that I had to make sure my wife understood. She understood I was a frustrated ballplayer playing twice a week, and sometimes not even that.

**IS:** Wasn't it a radical move to make at that stage of your life?







**CF:** Not at all. They offered Toronto a lot of money for the rights to sign me, and they offered me a lot of money to play there. They said everybody would make out on the deal.

**IS:** How did you find the quality of life in Japan?

**CF:** I found it outstanding. My wife took Japanese lessons. My son went to an American school. Kobe is a Western-style city and the people there spoke English, so it wasn't all that difficult. If you take the time to look around Japan, you'll see some wonderful things.

**IS:** Do you sometimes wonder where you would be now if you had rejected the Hanshin Tigers' offer?

**CF:** If I would have turned it down, you never know what would have happened. Toronto might have released me. To me, it was the only way out I had.

**IS:** Was going to Japan essential to your development?

**CF:** You've got to always remember where you come from. At the time, I was probably at the bottom as far as the major leagues was concerned. Without getting ample opportunity I had nothing I could do about it. For me to go to Japan and perform well—it opened a lot of eyes.

**IS:** Were you bitter during your time with Toronto?

**CF:** I wasn't always happy. In fact, I

was a frustrated human being, although I never let it show. I never berated the front office or anything like that; I just tried to deal with it the best way I knew how. In all those years in Toronto I'd just go out, get my work in, sit on the bench, and watch.

**IS:** How did your time in Japan help you develop as a hitter?

**CF:** I acquired patience as a hitter. The Japanese pitchers throw a lot of pitches just off the plate, especially to the *gayin* [foreigners], trying to get you to swing at something that isn't a real good pitch to hit.

**IS:** How did you adjust to that?

**CF:** You have to learn to lay off the bad pitches and just swing at strikes. I learned to be selective at the plate in Japan. That really helped me last season.

**IS:** Generally speaking, what is your hitting philosophy?

**CF:** I swing the same every time I'm up at bat. I don't get cheated. Power hitters are that way. If I hit, I hit it hard.

**IS:** Was the opportunity to play every day the most important thing Japan offered?

**CF:** There was a lot of progress, because when you're playing every day you have a lot of time to work through slumps. If you play

they're 100% behind him. I think that's great.

**IS:** Did the fuss ever disturb you?

**CF:** Every once in a while it got to me, but on that trip to Japan, they wanted to get to know American ballplayers. It was a good thing.

**IS:** Did you have many teams interested in bringing you back to the United States?

**CF:** Boston and Detroit were the serious teams. My agent talked to almost everybody in baseball. There were a lot of doubters, but [former Detroit general manager] Bill Lajoie was excited from the start.

**IS:** He's got to be feeling as good about your success as you do.

**CF:** It was probably one of the best decisions that has been made in a while. It was exciting for me to prove a lot of people wrong.

**IS:** I've heard Lloyd Moseby's decision to sign with Detroit as a free agent contributed to your decision to choose Detroit over Boston. Is that so?

**CF:** Moseby and I are close. Our families are close. He didn't try to pressure me. He just said, "Weigh it over, and do what you have to do." I was able to keep perspective because of him. When I was with the Blue Jays, he was the guy who talked to me when I wasn't playing. When

things were going bad for me, he was the guy who told me to get my head up because I could play the game. He kept saying that if it wasn't going to be with the Blue Jays, it would be somewhere else. It finally worked out just like he said it would.

**IS:** Could you sense skepticism when Detroit signed you?

**CF:** No question. Even in my home newspaper there was a guy who wanted to open his window and jump out because Detroit had offered so much money for a ballplayer who had the stats that I did.

**IS:** It was a lot of money, don't you think?



twice a week and you're in a slump, that slump can go on for four weeks. I just got to play—that's the bottom line.

**IS:** What did success in Japan do for your confidence level?

**CF:** I always felt I could produce the long ball. Doing it in Japan confirmed my beliefs.

**IS:** It was obvious during the all-star tour after the '90 season that you have as much affection for Japanese fans as they do for you.

**CF:** One thing that's very important about Japanese fans. They're 100% behind their team. Whether a guy is batting .100 or .400,



**CF:** That's not my fault. That's baseball. The market has gone wild, and for Detroit to get me, I wasn't going to take a cut. I was making a lot of money in Japan.

**IS:** Were you determined to go back to the United States, or was there the temptation to stay in Japan?

**CF:** Staying in Japan would have been kind of tough. That year Larry Parrish led the league in home runs with 42 and got eventually released by his team [the Yakult Swallows]. To me, any time you perform you should be rewarded for it, and in Japan it's a lot different.

**IS:** Parrish's release set off alarms?

**CF:** For that kind of thing to be going on, that's not right. I felt it a necessity for me to get back to the U.S. market.

**IS:** Is Detroit a good place for you?

**CF:** No question. It made me feel good that Sparky [Anderson, the Tigers manager] was behind me from the start. If you don't get that positive feeling from the person running things, then it's real difficult to relax. From the start he let me relax and told me, "You're going to play."

**IS:** When you left for Japan, did you consider it a one-year deal?

**CF:** Not at all. When they signed me, they said I could have a long career in Japan. I was looking at it for

the long run, because I didn't know my marketability in the United States.

**IS:** You were a struggling young player who went to Japan for a year, had a big season, and returned to the States with great results. Do you think you will be a pioneer?

**CF:** I just hope now that guys in the situation I was in get a longer look and a better chance at home. There are a lot of guys who have ability to play and never get a chance.

**IS:** The ability was there for you all along?

**CF:** I feel so. I just kept going on, and finally it worked.

**IS:** Do you feel you're still developing as a ballplayer?

**CF:** After the 1990 season, there's not much I'd like to change. If everything stays the same, I'd be happy. I'm not looking to do anything different—just stay healthy and go out there and play every day.

**IS:** What do you think of your ability as a first baseman?

**CF:** I'm pretty happy with it. A lot of people were doubting that, too, but Sparky liked my play at first base, and that's the only thing that matters. If he didn't he would have put somebody else at first base and had me DH.

**CF:** The club is trying to give me protection. [The Tigers signed power-hitting free-agent Rob Deer in the offseason.] If they walk you and the next guy pops one, they're not going to be able to do that too often. Our whole team can hit. There's not much more we can do as far as offense is concerned.

**IS:** What did it mean to reach 50?

**CF:** I never really talked about home runs all year. I was just doing my job. But at the end, it got to the point where a lot of people said, If he doesn't get to 50 he doesn't have the chance to be MVP.

**IS:** Even with 51 home runs there was

plenty of debate about the MVP award [Felder finished second in the voting to Oakland's Rickey Henderson]. Did you believe you were deserving?

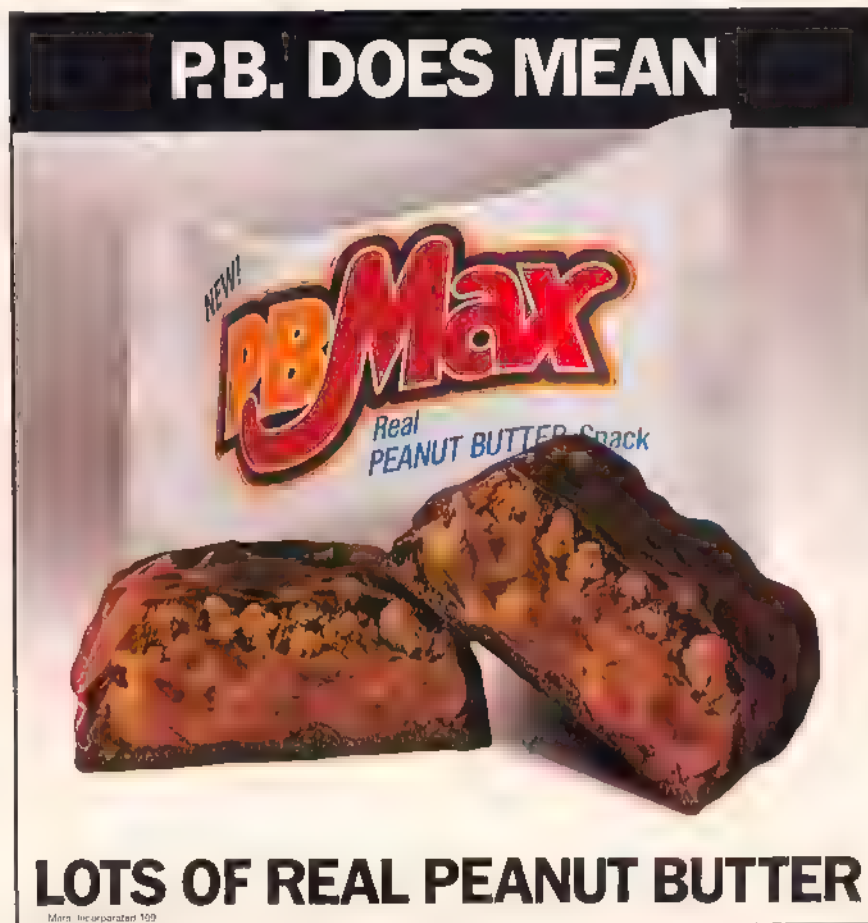
**CF:** Of course I felt I did enough. I did all I could for my team. That's what it's all about.

**IS:** Considering your chase for 50 home runs went to the last day of the season, you must have been ecstatic when No. 50 finally jumped off the bat.

**CF:** I was just glad when it was over because I could let a sigh of relief out. I relaxed and hit another one that day.

**IS:** How intense was the pressure?

**CF:** I can just imagine what Roger Maris went through when he hit 61. Every eye is on you, and it's a



He was happy, and if the skip's happy everybody else should be happy.

**IS:** Did the American League handle you differently as the season went on?

**CF:** I thought the league tried to make select pitches after a while. That comes with the territory. With the good hitters in the league, everybody's pitching them tough. [The pitchers] changed in that aspect. They were making sure they weren't leaving the ball over the plate. They were making sure the ball was either in or out.

**IS:** Are you concerned that teams will start pitching around you?

lot of pressure to go through.

**IS:** Was the prize worth the chase?

**CF:** It's something I'll never forget, because to be in that elite group—I never dreamed something like that would happen. But it did, and I'm proud.

**IS:** Did you lean on some other people for support in the final weeks?

**CF:** Everybody, even my teammates, understood. When I hit it, they felt just like I did. It was a sigh of relief.

**IS:** Did the media attention make it more difficult?

**CF:** Our media man, Dan Ewald, was

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telling people we'll do one press conference and then leave [me] alone. That helped me, because for a while there it was before the game, after the game, before the game, after the game. The same questions were being asked, and I was tired of answering the same questions.

**IS:** You're a low-key person. Is it uncomfortable for you to deal with the media?

**CF:** There are good people in the media, but the point the media all over the world should understand is that players—football players, basketball players, baseball, whatever—we're all human, and that should be considered.

**IS:** Did you receive any advice from Sparky during your pursuit of 50?

**CF:** He just called me into the office and said, "Listen, you've had a heck of a season. Nobody expected you to be even close to doing what you're doing. Forget about everything and just go out and have fun."

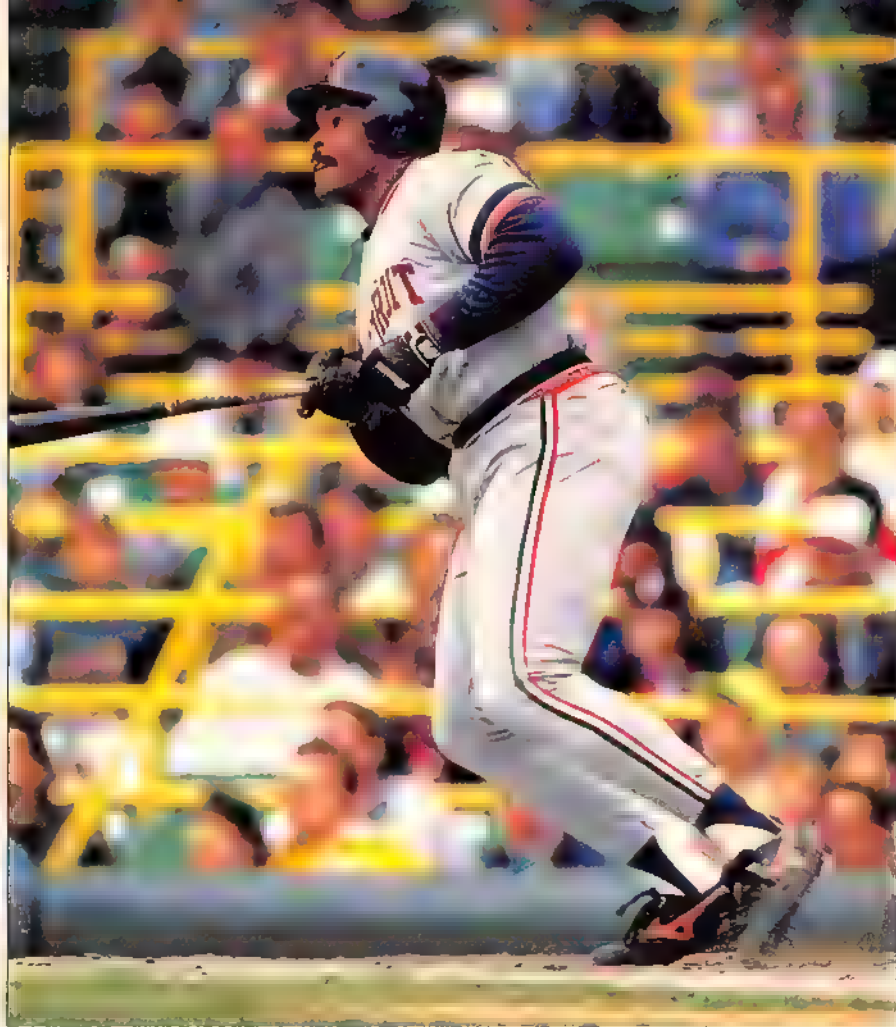
**IS:** Words of wisdom?

**CF:** Sparky has been around so long he's seen it all. He knows us sometimes better than we know ourselves in certain situations.

**IS:** It sounds as if you had a great relationship with Sparky. Did you turn to him often?

**CF:** He told me a few times during the

**Crunch time: 'Hey, I'm a power hitter. If I hit it, I hit it hard.'**





course of the season, "Hey, listen, you don't have anything else to prove to anybody. You're doing more than anybody thought you could do. You should just go out and enjoy yourself."

**IS:** How do you compare yourself at this stage to the game's other power hitters? Do you feel you accomplished something that makes you stand above them?

**CF:** That's the thing about baseball: You have to do it over and over. You've got to keep going out there and performing. Right now I feel good about what I accomplished, but the new season is an entirely different thing. I'm going to have to go out there and prove it all again.

**IS:** What is the pecking order among power hitters?

**CF:** As far as who's this and who's that, I'm just glad I did what I did. I'm not going to say I'm better than anybody, because that's not what it's all about. You're just out there trying to perform for your team and taking care of your family. That's the bottom line.

**IS:** Boasting doesn't seem to be your style.

**CF:** That's not my style at all. That's really not what it's all about. You've got 660 major league players, and we all are good players. I don't see one guy talking about being better than another guy.

We're all in this thing together. We're all making money and all performing well. It's not really a liking of mine to talk about people—how well they play or how well they do.

**IS:** If Jose Canseco says a few things in the course of the year—and he does say a few things—how do you deal with that?

**CF:** I don't. He's not Cecil Fielder. He doesn't run me. He doesn't pay me. He's just another man, and that's how I look at it. All men are created equal.

**IS:** His talk doesn't bother you?

**CF:** If he wants to say something, that's

fine. But I'm not going to retaliate. That's not my style.

**IS:** Do you feel that one big season has established you as a superstar?

**CF:** As a person I don't feel I'm a superstar because I don't treat people like that. A person is a person.

**IS:** But your statistics stamp you as someone special.

**CF:** As far as baseball standards go, that's probably true. But a lot of superstars these days aren't what I call real people. They've got an ego, and that's not my style. Just because somebody has great accomplish-

baseball. I've been to Colombia, I played in Venezuela four years, Japan. The game is very humbling. If you forget that the game is humbling, one day it's going to get you back.

**IS:** Some stars forget that fame can be fleeting. Obviously, you haven't.

**CF:** With this game, you can be at the top one day and be at the bottom the next day. You have to try to stay the same all the time and respect people, because people remember. Sports writers, people in the front offices—they remember how you were when you were on top of the hill. Your talents as you get older maybe drop a little

bit, and then the people really start coming after you. You got to treat people the way you want to be treated, because otherwise when you come down they're going to get you.

**IS:** You've done 51. Could you conceive of 61?

**CF:** That's a lot of home runs. I feel 30 home runs is a good season. Sixty home runs is way out there—that's a long way. That's not really on my mind. Being consistent and helping the Tigers win ball games is on my mind. That's really all that's on my mind. If we win as a unit, it's going to be better for everybody.

**IS:** Your power is essential to their scheme. Do you attach a number to that power?

**CF:** Whatever it

takes. I'm not saying I'm going to hit 50 again, because that's something that hasn't been done a whole bunch of times. If I stay healthy and drive in runs, if I drive in 100 runs again, it's the same kind of production. That's what the club is looking for. If I can do that, then everybody will be happy. ■

*His Japanese friends call New York baseball writer TOM PEDULLA "Wild Fingers" because of the raw power of his keystroke. Tom's interview with the 1990 home run king is his first work for INSIDE SPORTS.*

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ment, that doesn't make him better than another person. I hear people trying to compare me to Babe Ruth and Henry Aaron. I don't pay any attention to that. They were great players. I'm just here to do a job.

**IS:** You seem completely at ease with who you are and where you're going.

**CF:** I just want to be Cecil. If I can be Cecil and just be able to go out and enjoy what I'm doing, then everything else will be fine.

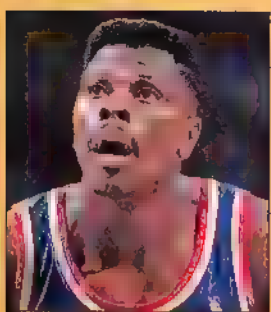
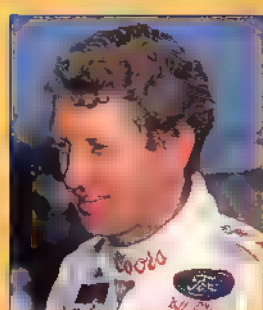
**IS:** Is it easy to forget where you came from?

**CF:** No, you can't lose sight of that. That's very important. I've gone far trying to play



# SPORTS \$ALARIES

*Which pros merely collect a paycheck,  
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We go beyond the numbers and show  
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## One-man band

To understand the dramatic escalation in player salaries in recent years, consider this: Whereas \$4 million was enough to buy the original New York Mets, now it's not enough to get some *players* for one season. When outfielder Darryl Strawberry accepted \$20.25 million of the Dodgers' green last November to play the next five seasons for Los Angeles, his contract more than doubled the fee for every expansion franchise in major league history. This is where The Straw's annual take ranks with the cost of the expansion clubs:

Year	Team	Cost
1969	Montreal Expos	\$10 million
1969	San Diego Padres	\$10 million
1977	Toronto Blue Jays	\$7 million
1977	Seattle Mariners	\$6.25 million
1969	Kansas City Royals	\$5.55 million
1969	Seattle Pilots	\$5.55 million
1991	Darryl Strawberry	\$4.05 million
1961	Los Angeles Angels	\$2.1 million
1961	Washington Senators	\$2.1 million
1962	Houston Colt .45s	\$2.1 million
1962	New York Mets	\$2.1 million

# BASEBALL

## PAID TO WIN

How much baseball's top starters cost in 1990:

Player, Team	Wins	Dollars per win
Bob Welch, Athletics.....	27	\$ 41,975
Doug Drabek, Pirates.....	22	50,000
Dave Stewart, Athletics.....	22	43,181
Roger Clemens, Red Sox.....	21	123,810
Ramon Martinez, Dodgers.....	20	7,500
Frank Viola, Mets.....	20	98,333

## DEPOSIT INTO SAVINGS

How much baseball's top closers cost in 1990:

Player, Team	Saves	Dollars per save
Bobby Thigpen, White Sox.....	57	\$ 5,965
Dennis Eckersley, Athletics.....	48	16,406
Doug Jones, Indians.....	43	22,093
Gregg Olson, Orioles.....	37	8,243
Dave Righetti, Yankees.....	36	43,056
John Franco, Mets.....	33	51,768
Randy Myers, Reds.....	31	28,226

**No wonder Franco's grinning—he just earned \$51,768.**

## The Royals were no bargain

Based on the major league average of \$213,229 per victory, the Chicago White Sox were the greatest overachievers in the major leagues last season, while division rival Kansas City got the least for its money. A breakdown what each team's payroll should have produced in the way of victories last season:

Team	Projected	Actual	Diff.
Chicago White Sox.....	52	94	+42
Baltimore Orioles.....	38	76	+38
Texas Rangers.....	60	83	+23
Pittsburgh Pirates.....	73	95	+22
Seattle Mariners.....	59	77	+18
Cincinnati Reds.....	74	91	+17
Chicago Cubs.....	65	77	+12
Philadelphia Phillies.....	66	77	+11
Minnesota Twins.....	66	74	+8
Montreal Expos.....	77	85	+8
Cleveland Indians.....	72	77	+5
Toronto Blue Jays.....	84	86	+2
Oakland Athletics.....	104	103	-1
Atlanta Braves.....	67	65	-2
San Diego Padres.....	78	75	-3
Detroit Tigers.....	84	79	-5
Houston Astros.....	85	75	-10
Los Angeles Dodgers.....	96	86	-10



# The Royals were no bargain (continued)

Milwaukee Brewers	87	74	-13	St. Louis Cardinals	92	70	-22
New York Mets	104	91	-13	California Angels	103	80	-23
Boston Red Sox	107	88	-19	New York Yankees	97	67	30
San Francisco Giants	105	85	-20	Kansas City Royals	111	75	36

## 1991's TOP 20

1	Jose Canseco	..... Athletics	\$4,700,000
2	Darryl Strawberry	..... Dodgers	4,050,000
3	Don Mattingly	..... Yankees	3,860,000
4	Willi Clark	..... Giants	3,750,000
	Kevin Mitchell	..... Giants	3,750,000
	Dave Winfield	..... Angels	3,750,000
7	Andre Dawson	..... Cubs	3,700,000
8	Dave Stewart	..... Athletics	3,500,000
9	Bob Welch	..... Athletics	3,450,000
10	Tim Lincecum	..... White Sox	3,400,000
11	Kirk Gibson	..... Royals	3,300,000
	Nolan Ryan	..... Angels	3,300,000
13	George Bell	..... Cubs	3,270,000
14	Mark Davis	..... Royals	3,250,000
	Teddy Higuera	..... Brewers	3,250,000
	Willie McGee	..... Giants	3,250,000
17	Mark Langston	..... Angels	3,200,000
	Robin Yount	..... Brewers	3,200,000
19	Dennis Martinez	..... Expos	3,170,000
20	Tom Browning	..... Reds	3,120,000

Figures are 1991 base salaries including prorated shares of signing bonuses, incentives not included.

## HITTING FOR DOLLARS

How much baseball's top hitters cost in 1990:

Player, Team	Avg.	Dollars per hit
Eddie Murray, Dodgers	.330	\$15,543
Willie McGee, Athletics	.324	7,538
George Brett, Royals	.329	10,272
Dave Magadan, Mets	.328	2,669
Rickey Henderson, Athletics	.325	14,151
Lenny Dykstra, Phillies	.325	3,776

Murray's comeback in '90 raised his cost effectiveness.



## You are what you pay

Money can't buy happiness—or even a World Series championship, for that matter—but if last season was any indication, it can make a team competitive. If the 26 clubs were broken down into three financial groups—those that spent at least \$20 million in players' salaries, between \$15 and \$19 million, and less than \$15 million—a correlation exists between payroll and on-field performance. To wit: Of the 11 clubs that turned in winning records, five were so-called big spenders.

### Richie Rich Division

	Payroll	Record	Pct
Oakland Athletics	\$22,274,834	103-59	.636
New York Mets	22,154,333	91-71	.562
Boston Red Sox	22,713,698	88-74	.543
Los Angeles Dodgers	20,369,194	86-76	.531
San Francisco Giants	22,456,224	85-77	.525
California Angels	21,935,389	80-82	.494
Kansas City Royals	23,617,090	75-86	.466
New York Yankees	20,581,948	67-95	.414
Average	\$22,012,839	84.4-77.5	.521

### Donald Trump Division

Pittsburgh Pirates	\$15,490,000	75-67	.586
Cincinnati Reds	15,751,395	91-71	.562
Toronto Blue Jays	17,973,500	86-76	.531
Montreal Expos	16,472,220	85-77	.525
Detroit Tigers	17,848,737	79-83	.488
Cleveland Indians	15,369,298	77-85	.475
Houston Astros	18,229,781	75-87	.463
San Diego Padres	16,718,332	75-87	.463
Milwaukee Brewers	18,453,999	74-88	.457
St. Louis Cardinals	19,597,498	70-92	.432
Average	\$17,190,476	80.7-81.3	.498

### Ebenezer Scrooge Division

Chicago White Sox	\$11,118,810	94-68	.580
Texas Rangers	12,753,035	83-79	.512
Chicago Cubs	13,781,702	77-85	.475
Philadelphia Phillies	14,156,000	77-85	.475
Seattle Mariners	12,591,199	77-85	.475
Baltimore Orioles	8,087,702	76-85	.472
Minnesota Twins	14,162,299	74-88	.457
Atlanta Braves	14,188,833	65-97	.401
Average	\$12,604,947	77.9-84.0	.481

## THE KINGS OF K

How much baseball's top strikeout pitchers cost in 1990:

Player, Team	K's	Dollars per K
David Cone, Mets	233	\$5,579
Nolan Ryan, Rangers	232	6,034
Dwight Gooden, Mets	223	8,371
Ramon Martinez, Dodgers	223	673
Bobby Witt, Rangers	221	1,878
Erik Hanson, Mariners	211	711

## PAYING FOR PRODUCTION

How much baseball's top RBI men cost in 1990:

Player, Team	RBI's	Dollars per RBI
Cecil Fielder, Tigers	132	\$ 9,470
Matt Williams, Giants	122	1,762
Bobby Bonilla, Pirates	120	10,417
Kelly Gruber, Blue Jays	118	9,958
Joe Carter, Padres	115	16,232
Barry Bonds, Pirates	114	7,456
Darryl Strawberry, Mets	108	17,130
Mark McGwire, Athletics	108	13,889



## Pay them now, or pay them more later

The All-Underpaid Team for 1990:

**Catcher: Sandy Alomar Jr., Indians, \$115,000.** His offensive production was comparable to that of former San Diego teammate Benito Santiago at roughly one-tenth the price.

**First base: Cecil Fielder, Tigers, \$1.25 million.** Millionaires rarely crack the All-Underpaid lineup, but only Evander Holyfield did more damage than the majors' most prolific home run hitter in 13 seasons.

**Second base: Delino DeShields, Expos, \$100,000.** He produced Tim Lincecum-type numbers—.289 batting average, 69 runs, 42 stolen bases—at a K mart price.

**Shortstop: Jay Bell, Pirates, \$180,000.** The Bucs' infield glue had the second-lowest salary among Pirates regulars.

**Third base: Matt Williams, Giants, \$215,000.** He produced more home runs (33) and RBIs (122) than such millionaire third basemen as Wade Boggs, Kelly Gruber, Carney Lansford, Terry Pendleton, Kevin Seitzer, and Tim Wallach.

**Outfield: Barry Bonds, Pirates, \$850,000.** His salary was mere chump change for the only member of the exclusive .300-30-50-100-1 club: batting average, home runs, stolen bases, RBIs, and earrings.

**Outfield: Ron Gant, Braves, \$150,000.** Only Bonds, Williams, Kevin Mitchell (\$2.108 million), Ryne Sandberg (\$1.575 million), and Darryl Strawberry (\$1.85 million) clubbed more homers in the senior circuit.

**Outfield: Ken Griffey Jr., Mariners, \$210,000.** Aside from the fact that he led the M's in six major offensive categories, the 21-year-old megatalent became their first legitimate drawing card.

**Starting pitcher: Dave Stewart, Athletics, \$950,000.** With apologies to 18-game winner Erik Hanson of Seattle (\$150,000), Stewart has been a Brinks job, based on his 84 victories and nearly 1,062 innings pitched since 1987.

**Relief pitcher: Bobby Thigpen, White Sox, \$340,000.** The next time the bullpen ace asks poetic justice of the White Sox in salary negotiations, his message could read something like this:

*I think salary arbitration has never seen  
The record 57 saves that were me  
So if it is your intention to play the hero,  
Then all you need do is add one more zero.*

## Some mighty lucky fellers

Bob Feller once mused that, if he had the support of today's bullpen specialists back in his day, "I would have had time to golf nine holes on the day I pitched." Truth be told, any current pitcher who boasted Feller's statistics of 1946 would be able to buy his own country club. With prices for goods and services approximately 6.8 times higher than what they were in 1946, Feller's \$100,000 salary that season would be worth \$680,000 today. Here's how Feller stacks up against his financial peers of 1990:

Player, Team	W-L	IP	ERA	Salary
Bob Feller, Indians (1946)	26-15	371	2.18	\$100,000
Mike Bielecki, Cubs	8-11	168	4.93	\$675,000
Mike Boddicker, Red Sox	17-8	228	3.36	\$675,000
Mike Morgan, Dodgers	11-15	211	3.75	\$650,000
Zane Smith, Expos-Pirates	12-9	215.1	2.55	\$600,000
Curt Young, Athletics	9-6	124.1	4.85	\$675,000
Neal Heaton, Pirates	12-9	146	3.45	\$700,000



**Bielecki: A nice fella, but he's certainly no Feller.**

## And the sad thing is, Yogi could outhit him today

The All-Overpaid Team for 1990:

**Catcher: Bob Boone, Royals, \$1.9 million.** What a difference three decades make: The top salary of Hall of Fame backstop Yogi Berra was \$65,000 in 1963.

**First base: Keith Hernandez, Indians, \$1.75 million.** At \$583,333.33 per extra-base hit, his contract was a headache of Manhattan-sized proportions for the Tribe.

**Second base: Marty Barrett, Red Sox, \$1 million.** As a fill-in for Jody Reed, he ranked among the highest-paid caddies on the American League tour.

**Shortstop: Alfredo Griffin, Dodgers, \$1 million.** Among regular National League shortstops, he ranked 11th in batting average (.210) and tied for first in errors (26).

**Third base: Terry Pendleton, Cardinals, \$1.85 million.** According to baseball's new math, a .230 batting average, six home runs, and 58 RBIs at age 30 merits a four-year, \$10.2-million offer from Atlanta.

**Outfield: Von Hayes, Phillies, \$2 million.** Seventeen taters and 73 ribbies for a couple mil. Del Ennis and Garry Maddox, eat your hearts out.

**Outfield: Danny Tartabull, Royals, \$1.65 million.** Does Bo know about this?

**Outfield: Robin Yount, Brewers, \$3.2 million.** Memo to the local school teacher who lobbied long and loudly for the re-signing of Yount (.247, 17, 77): The Brewers will accept your fair contribution in Visa or MasterCard.

**Starting pitcher: Mark Gubicza, Royals, \$2,066,667.** He posted a disappointing 4-7 record and 4.50 ERA before a partially torn rotator cuff shortened his season.

**Relief pitcher: Mark Davis, Royals, \$2.125 million.** The third member of Kansas City's All-Overpaid battery.



**Fielder gave the Tigers a volume discount in homers.**

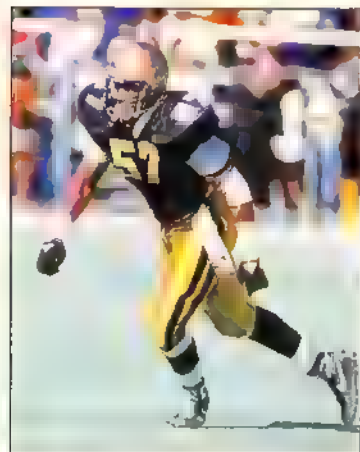
## DINGERS AND DOLLARS

How much baseball's top seven sluggers cost in 1990:

Player, Team	HRs	Dollars per HR
Cecil Fielder, Tigers	51	\$24,510
Ryne Sandberg, Cubs	40	39,375
Mark McGwire, Athletics	39	38,462
Jose Canseco, Athletics	37	54,324
Darryl Strawberry, Mets	37	50,000
Fred McGriff, Blue Jays	35	41,429
Kevin Mitchell, Giants	35	60,229

# The 1990 Leadership Award Winners

**I**N 1989 EDDIE ROBINSON BECAME DEFENSIVE ABOUT HIS POSITION on the Alabama State University football team. That was the year Robinson switched from offensive tackle to outside linebacker. Since then, the junior chemistry major has been recognized as one of the best linebackers in Division I-AA.



Just two years after switching positions, Robinson was the SWAC's top linebacker.

In 1990 Toyota recognized Robinson as one of the best all-around players in the nation, naming the 20-year-old New Orleans native the 1990 Toyota/Black Entertainment Television Leader of the Year.

On the gridiron, Robinson was voted to the All-Southwestern Athletic Conference first team and was named SWAC defensive player of the year for 1990. In 1989 Robinson, who maintains a 3.53 GPA, was named to the Academic All-Conference team.

In addition to his athletic and academic endeavors, Robinson (who enrolled at ASU on an academic scholarship and joined the Hornets as a walk-on), spends his time in the community, speaking with Montgomery-area school children about career options and the dedication needed to succeed as a student-athlete.

Once he completes his own career as a student-athlete at ASU, Robinson is planning on a future as a chemist.

**Q**UARTERBACKS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE SHOULD be able to breathe a little easier next year. That's because University of Mississippi free safety Todd Sandroni won't be looking to pick off their passes in the record-setting fashion he established as a freshman four years ago.

While Toyota Motor Sales saw plenty of Sandroni patrolling the defensive backfield for Ole Miss, it also saw his abilities in the classroom and the community. Combined, those traits added up to the 22-year-old Sandroni being honored as the 1990 Toyota/CBS Leader of the Year.

On the field, Sandroni twice led the SEC in interceptions in his four-year career. In the classroom, the Shaw, Miss., native maintained a 3.57 GPA and was named to the Academic All-SEC team

four times and an Academic All-American in 1990. Also in 1990, the pharmacy major earned a spot on the SEC Academic Honor Roll and was nominated for an NCAA postgraduate scholarship, a National Football Foundation award, and a Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete award.

Sandroni plays an active role in the community as a volunteer at March of Dimes and Special Olympics events. Following his graduation from Ole Miss, he plans to pursue a career in the pharmaceutical industry.



Sandroni [19] was a terror in the backfield during his years at Ole Miss.

**I**N THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE at Toyota, success as a college football player means more than just touchdowns and tackles. It means being an "impact player" off the field, too.

As a symbol of this excellence, Toyota Motor Sales has, for the sixth consecutive year, honored two college football players who have demonstrated leadership qualities on the field, in the classroom, and in the community.

Toyota vice president George Borst, recognized Eddie Robinson, a junior outside linebacker from Alabama State University, and Todd Sandroni, a senior free safety from the University of Mississippi, as the 1990 Toyota Leaders of the Year.

"The Toyota Leader of the Year Award is designed to recognize and reward leadership among college athletes—whether it's tackling opponents on the football field, tackling the demands of a tough academic schedule, or tackling the needs of the community," Borst



George Borst and legendary former Michigan Wolverines coach Bo Schembechler present the 1990 Toyota Leader of the Year Awards to Eddie Robinson and Todd Sandroni. The awards are given annually in recognition of the highest standards of athletic accomplishment, academic achievement, and community service among college football players.

said. "Eddie and Todd embody all of these qualities, and we're proud that they will represent Toyota as our Leaders of the Year."

Weekly Toyota Leadership Award winners are selected from teams that compete on CBS and Black Entertainment Television; each weekly winner receives a special award plaque. Toyota also donates \$1,000 to each school's general scholarship fund in that athlete's name. After the season, a special NCAA athletic and academic panel selects a final Leader of the Year from among all CBS and BET weekly winners.

The distinguished pair each receive a trophy, and

their schools are given a \$10,000 donation to the general scholarship fund.

In 1990 Toyota sponsored 22 college football games televised by BET and 36 games televised by CBS. Since 1985, Toyota has donated \$408,000 through the Leadership Award program to the general scholarship funds of universities across the country.



# IF THEY LOOK LIKE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS, YOU'RE ONLY SEEING PART OF THE PICTURE.

Toyota congratulates the 1990 Leaders of the Year and weekly Leadership Award recipients. Toyota extends special congratulations to Eddie Robinson of Alabama State University and Todd Sandroni of the University of Mississippi for being chosen as Leaders of the Year. Toyota recognizes all the students listed below for excelling in athletics, academics, and community service. Their discipline and unrelenting

effort toward these goals make them more than team players; these qualities make them leaders.

The example they have set is an inspiration to us all, and we're proud to add their names to a growing roster of Leadership Award recipients.

So take a good look at the list below, because there's a lot more talent on the field than you may realize.



**TOYOTA**

*"I love what you do for me."*

Sheldon Allen Texas Southern University	E'Vinsk, Davis Grambling State University	Jim Hansen University of Colorado	Russell Marvland University of Miami	Dave Roberts Florida State University	Mike Sullivan University of Miami
Ike Ayozie Jackson State University	Robert Dendy South Carolina State College	Rav Hilvert Boston College	Charles McRae University of Tennessee	Eddie Robinson Alabama State University	Mike Sullivan Texas Christian University
Charles Bryant Virginia Union University	Ty Detmer Brigham Young University	Gregory Hlatky U.S. Naval Academy	Ryan Mihalko University of Notre Dame	Joe Saffold Central State University	Willie Thomas Penn State University
Dave Brzenchek Penn State University	Derek Dooley University of Virginia	Marcus Hodges Virginia Union University	Jeff Miller University of Oklahoma	Chris Samuels University of Texas	Leroy Thompson Penn State University
Curtis Butts San Diego State University	Scott Evans University of Oklahoma	Eric Holzworth University of Pittsburgh	John Milligan University of Michigan	Todd Sandroni University of Mississippi	Rob Thomson Syracuse University
Pedro Cherry Auburn University	Chris Gale Jackson State University	Johnny Howard University of Alabama	Rick Mizer University of Notre Dame	Mike Sawatzky University of Oklahoma	Pat Tyrance University of Nebraska
Irvin Clark Florida A&M University	Brian Gary Tuskegee University	Maurice Earl Jackson Texas Southern University	Anthony Noto U.S. Military Academy	Stefen Scotton Georgia Tech	Gregory Waller Winston-Salem State University
Kelvin Coney Southern University	Oscar Giles University of Texas	John Kasay University of Georgia	Lance Pavlas Texas A&M University	Roger Shultz University of Alabama	Anthony Williams Norfolk State University
DeRocke Croom Hampton University	Craig Gob University of Pittsburgh	Tracy Kendall Alabama A&M University	Chris Perkins Alcorn State University		
Rodney Culver University of Notre Dame	Colin Godfrey Tennessee State University	Gary Martin Virginia State University	Cedric Rawls Howard University		
Antone Davis University of Tennessee	Vernon Grier South Carolina State University				

## At least now LT can afford his green fees

Throughout most of the 1960s and 1970s, New York Giants co-owners Wellington and Tim Mara frequently were accused of being cheap for not keeping their players happy with fat contracts. But since the Giants turned the corner on respectability in the early 1980s the Maras have forked over large salaries quite regularly, and they got the 1990s off to a rather expensive start last year. Their list of high-priced signees includes the following:

**Lawrence Taylor, \$1.55 million.** Following a lengthy



### Really flatten him, LT: Drop your wallet on him.

contract holdout, the 31-year-old outside linebacker came to terms on a three-year, \$4.5 million deal that made him the highest-paid defensive player ever.

**Leonard Marshall, \$775,000.** Like LT, Marshall also held out and was rewarded with a hefty deal. The Giants doled out \$3.2 million over four years, and the 29-year-old Marshall responded by posting a subpar 4½ sacks.

**Dave Duerson, \$650,000.** When safety Adrian White went down with a season-ending knee injury, Bill Parcells signed Duerson as a free agent

# FOOTBALL

after the Bears had released him late in training camp.

**Matt Cavanaugh, \$510,000.** After losing reliable back-up quarterback Jeff Rutledge to the Redskins in Plan B, Parcells needed another veteran. So when the Eagles dumped Cavanaugh in training camp, the Giants

plucked him off waivers. Not a bad salary for a third-stringer.

**Everson Walls, \$390,000.** Cowboys head coach Jimmy Johnson evidently thought Walls was washed up, so he released the cornerback in the offseason. The Giants signed him to a two-year, \$1.2 million deal, plus incentives.

## These guys remember Roger Staubach before he sold insurance

Old is in for quarterbacks. Some of the best in today's game are well into their NFL golden years. And the money's not bad, either. But there is a health hazard; injuries have knocked out some of these wizened old performers.

**Joe Montana, 49ers, \$4 million.** Last August, Niners owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. signed the 34-year-old Montana to a four-year, \$13 million deal. Montana may not be counting on improving much, though: He'll get decreasing salaries of

\$3.5 million in 1991, \$3 million in '92, and \$2.5 million in '93.

**Warren Moon, Oilers, \$1.5 million.** The 34-year-old Moon has plenty of incentive to make it through the 1993 season: He has a \$4 million salary waiting for him then.

**Phil Simms, Giants, \$1.4 million.** Simms was enjoying one of his most productive seasons before he suffered a sprained foot last December. But he'll be back to collect next season's \$1.4 million salary.

**Steve DeBerg, Chiefs, \$675,000.** Known primarily as the back-up to Joe Montana, John Elway, and Steve Young, the 36-year-old DeBerg has made the most of his opportunity in Kansas City.

**Jim Kelly, Bills, \$4.8 million.** At 30, Kelly is the most recent inductee into the old folks' home. He suffered a knee injury with three weeks left in the regular season, but needn't be concerned about money. The Bills gave him a seven-year, \$20 million extension last year.



Montana's in his golden years—and we mean gold.

## Hey, I didn't hold a gun to your head

The good thing about signing a contract is that you don't have to give anything back. That's

especially true in the case of players who, for one reason or another, don't live up to their

value. In 1990 there was no shortage of overpaid performers:

**Herschel Walker, Vikings, \$2.25 million.** Walker got a \$1 million salary from the Vikings and a \$1.25 million settlement from the Cowboys last year, but the running back was hardly worth it. Too bad GM Mike Lynn will go down as the man who made perhaps the worst trade in NFL history.



If he's this high, Walker's not carrying his paycheck.

**Aundray Bruce, Falcons, \$500,000.** The mediocre linebacker doesn't exactly enhance the reputation of overall No. 1 draft picks. Bruce has been a bust from the start.

**Tony Eason, Jets, \$1.25 million.** Not a bad wage for being a back-up to Ken O'Brien.

**Tim Brown, Raiders, \$500,000.** If Bruce doesn't represent overall No. 1 picks, then Brown doesn't do much for former Heisman Trophy winners. Brown does little more than return kicks and catch a few passes.

**Kelly Stouffer, Seahawks, \$700,000.** The former first-round pick of the Cardinals went north to Seattle, but things stayed pretty much the same. He hasn't been good enough to beat out the mercurial Dave Krieg.

## Block heads

In many respects, blocking has become a lost art. Yet there





### Carthon [44] has been money in the bank in N.Y.

are a select few who still manage to maul would-be tacklers to open holes for the ball carrier. Here are the best:

**Maurice Carthon, Giants, \$500,000.** Carthon is paid better than some tailbacks, but for good reasons. Whether blocking for Joe Morris in Super Bowl XXI or Ottis Anderson the last two seasons, Carthon has few peers.

**Tom Rathman, 49ers, \$604,000.** When you ask Roger Craig why he does so well, he'll be the first to admit

Rathman makes things much easier.

**Tony Paige, Dolphins, \$405,000.** Paige was let go by the Jets and Lions, but he found a home last year in Miami.

**Jamie Mueller, Bills, \$325,000.** Mueller's the guy opening the lanes for Thurman Thomas. He's also developed some pass-catching skills.

**Steve Smith, Raiders, \$375,000.** There have been cries for a Marcus Allen-Bo Jackson backfield, but neither tailback approaches the blocking talents of the hard-nosed Smith. That's why it's one-at-a-time for Jackson and Allen.

### Starting salary surge

Thanks in large part to the \$3.64 billion television contract signed in 1990, NFL starting players reaped huge dividends. Here's how the average salaries for starters compared in 1989 and 1990:

Position	1989 average	1990 average
Quarterback	\$956,000	\$1.25 million
Running back	\$455,000	\$667,000
Wide receiver	\$411,000	\$494,000
Tight end	\$305,000	\$345,000
Offensive lineman	\$327,000	\$387,000
Defensive lineman	\$417,000	\$444,000
Linebacker	\$385,000	\$494,000
Defensive back	\$327,000	\$395,000
Punter	\$171,000	\$233,000
Placekicker	\$241,000	\$252,000
All starters	\$381,000	\$460,000

### I even have to drive my own Mercedes

While there are plenty of examples of overpaid performers, don't forget about those less fortunate ones. Every year there are dozens of players who perform far beyond the terms of their contracts. Here are a few glaring pay-scale inequities:

**Marion Butts, Chargers, \$100,000.** This guy may become the next dominant back.

General manager Bobby Beathard had better convince Chargers owner Alex Spanos to dip into the vault to make sure Butts remains in San Diego.

**Myron Guyton, Giants, \$95,000.** New York's safety asked about renegotiating his deal last year, but the Giants said no. They can't hold out much longer.

**Johnny Johnson, Cardinals, \$117,000.** Johnson made the Cardinals' decision to draft him in the seventh round look sensational. As a rookie he made the Pro Bowl. Can a new contract be far behind?

**Mark Rypien, Redskins, \$300,000.** Rypien wanted a new deal last year, but the Red-

skins made him earn his keep by playing out his contract. A lucrative deal may be just around the corner.

**David Meggett, Giants, \$105,000.** He returns punts and kickoffs better than almost everyone, and is one of the premier third-down backs in football.

## 1990's TOP 20

1	Jim Kelly	.....Bills	\$4,800,000
2	Joe Montana	.....49ers	4,000,000
3	Jeff George	.....Colts	3,650,000
4	Cortez Kennedy	.....Seahawks	3,100,000
5	Keith McCants	.....Buccaneers	2,950,000
6	Blair Thomas	.....Jets	2,800,100
7	Andre Ware	.....Lions	2,500,000
8	Jim Everett	.....Rams	2,400,000
9	Herschel Walker	.....Vikings	2,250,000
10	Neal Anderson	.....Bears	2,200,000
	Eric Dickerson	.....Colts	2,200,000
12	Junior Seau	.....Chargers	2,175,000
13	Frank Reich	.....Bills	1,830,000
14	Anthony Carter	.....Vikings	1,750,000
15	Richmond Webb	.....Dolphins	1,679,500
16	Greg Townsend	.....Raiders	1,625,000
17	Chris Doleman	.....Vikings	1,600,000
18	Charles Haley	.....49ers	1,550,000
	Lawrence Taylor	.....Giants	1,550,000
20	Roger Craig	.....49ers	1,500,000
	Bernie Kosar	.....Browns	1,500,000
	Don Majkowski	.....Packers	1,500,000
	Dan Marino	.....Dolphins	1,500,000
	Warren Moon	.....Oilers	1,500,000
	Jerry Rice	.....49ers	1,500,000
	Chris Singleton	.....Patriots	1,500,000

Figures are 1990 base salaries including signing and reporting bonuses and deferred money; incentives not included.

### At these prices, pass the Grey Poupon

Hot-dogging is back in style, thanks to the showboating of several high-profile players. While endzone celebrations are still illegal, per a 1984 ruling of the competition committee, a good number of players are willing to skirt the rules for the sake of showmanship:

**Ickey Woods, Bengals, \$256,000.** The third-year running back missed most of '89

**Woods is good, but Arthur Murray is much cheaper.**



with a bad knee, but he revived the Ickey Shuffle last year. He only scored six TDs, though, which meant Cincy shelled out about \$42,667 per dance.

**Andre Rison, Falcons, \$307,500.** Rison calls his touchdown dance "The Highlight Zone." After scoring, he does a quasi-duckwalk before spiking the ball.

**Tim Harris, Packers, \$630,000.** The sack specialist has pistols painted on his gloves, the better to "shoot" fallen quarterbacks.

**Cornelius Bennett, Bills, \$600,000.** After a sack, Bennett often folds his arms and admires his work. Referees, who don't share in his self-congratulation, often flag him for the gesture.

**Randall Cunningham, Eagles, \$1.3 million.** Like Harris, Cunningham also likes to shoot his imaginary pistols, usually after completing a touchdown pass. He's also been known to throw the ball into the stands, a gesture that carries an automatic fine.

## Reading defenses is a piece of cake compared to Super Mario Bros. 3

While veteran quarterbacks are in vogue, don't forget the young guns who probably will lead their teams into the 21st century. Check out this impressive list of wealthy young passers, all with—at the most—three years' experience:

**Jeff George, Colts, \$3.65 million.** Not a bad salary for a rookie, eh? The No. 1 overall

draft choice in 1990, George got \$3.5 million to sign as part of a six-year, \$12.04 million deal.

**Troy Aikman, Cowboys, \$865,000.** Aikman, the No. 1 pick in 1989, got a nice deal at \$11.2 million over six years. He may have been a steal, considering the Cowboys' improvement in 1990.

**Steve Walsh, Saints, \$800,000.** The Cowboys finally pulled off the long-awaited trade of Walsh last year, as the Saints filled the void left by Bobby Hebert's season-long holdout.

**Timm Rosenbach, Cardinals, \$700,000.** Like Walsh, Rosenbach was a first-round pick in the supplemental draft. In 1989 he signed a five-year, \$5.3 million deal.

**Billy Joe Tolliver, Chargers, \$250,000.** Some wondered whether the Chargers were wise in spending a second-round choice on Tolliver in 1989. The brash young Texan aims to prove them wrong.

five-year, \$2.1 billion contract with CBS, NBC and ABC.

• In 1987 the league agreed to a three-year, \$1.4 billion deal with CBS, NBC, ABC, and ESPN. (The lack of a substantial

increase over the previous deal reflected flat ratings.)

• And in 1990 the NFL signed a staggering four-year, \$3.64 billion deal with CBS, NBC, ABC, ESPN, and TNT.

## Hey, dude, I don't care how many career tackles you've got—I'm a top five pick

At least until the NFL implements a rookie wage scale, the top five picks in the draft can start counting their millions. While first-round selection has assured hefty contracts, the cream of the crop has made out even better than most veterans. Here's how the salaries of the top five picks have escalated over the last three years (average salary per year is in parentheses):

### 1988

1. **Aundray Bruce, LB, Falcons.** Five years, \$4.1 million (\$820,000)

2. **Neil Smith, DE, Chiefs.** Five years, \$3.3 million (\$660,000).

3. **Bennie Blades, DB, Lions.** Four years, \$1.9 million (\$475,000).

4. **Paul Gruber, OT, Buccaneers.** Five years, \$3.8 million (\$760,000).

5. **Rickey Dixon, DB, Bengals.** Four years, \$2.2 million (\$550,000).

### 1989

1. **Troy Aikman, QB, Cowboys.** Six years, \$11.2 million (\$1.87 million).

2. **Tony Mandarich, OT, Packers.** Four years, \$4.4 million (\$1.1 million).

3. **Barry Sanders, RB, Lions.** Four years, \$5.9 million (\$1.48 million).

4. **Derrick Thomas, LB, Chiefs.** Five years, \$4.3 million (\$860,000).

5. **Deion Sanders, DB, Falcons.** Four years, \$4.5 million (\$1.13 million).

### 1990

1. **Jeff George, QB, Colts.** Six years, \$12.04 million (\$2.01 million).

2. **Blair Thomas, RB, Jets.** Four years, \$5.6 million (\$1.4 million).

3. **Cortez Kennedy, DT, Seahawks.** Five years, \$6.75 million (\$1.35 million).

4. **Keith McCants, LB, Buccaneers.** Six years, \$6.1 million (\$1.02 million).

5. **Junior Seau, LB, Chargers.** Five years, \$4.53 million (\$906,000).

**Look out, Trump—George really knows how to deal.**



## This is one reason the Cardinals can keep ticket prices so low

From relatively humble beginnings, the NFL has reaped an incredibly lucrative windfall from a series of escalating television contracts. Here's how high the stakes have risen over the past three decades:

• In 1962 the NFL signed a

two-year, \$9.2 million contract with the CBS television network.

• In 1978 the league signed a four-year, \$656 million contract with CBS, NBC, and ABC.

• In 1982 the NFL took a quantum leap when it inked a



**Thomas was buried in N.Y., but produced solid numbers.**



## They got him in the seventh round? That's Bo-gus!

The '87 draft produced a number of first-round running busts (Brent Fullwood, Alonzo Highsmith, and Paul Palmer, to name three), but there were a number of excellent performers plucked from the lower rounds in the same drafts. In fact, many have developed into some of the NFL's most productive performers:

**Bo Jackson, Raiders, \$1.48 million.** The Bucs made Jackson a No. 1 pick in 1986, but he opted to sit out the season and play baseball instead. The Raiders spent a seventh-round pick in '87 and convinced him to play. Last year Jackson was voted into all-star games in two different sports.

**Christian Okoye, Chiefs, \$785,000.** The Chiefs may have made a mistake in drafting Paul Palmer on the first round, but there's no second-guessing

their selection of Okoye in the next round.

**Rick Fenney, Vikings, \$600,000.** An eighth-round pick out of Washington, Fenney joined a Vikings running back rotation that also included Herschel Walker.

**Merrill Hoge, Steelers, \$190,000.** He's no Bo Jackson, but Hoge has turned into a respectable runner for the improving Steelers.

**Steve Smith, Raiders, \$375,000.** Smith doesn't get many carries, but just ask Bo Jackson or Marcus Allen how important his blocks are.

**Troy Stradford, Dolphins, \$225,000.** A fourth-round pick out of Boston College, Stradford has been a reliable performer.

**The Bucs fell short in '86, but L.A. nabbed Bo in '87.**



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# CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR NEXT PAYDAY?

## Good in the sack

A new breed of sacker has emerged in the NFL. Here are the best of today's young pass-rushers:

**Derrick Thomas, Chiefs, \$420,000.** Thomas inked a five-year, \$4.3 million deal in 1989, and he looks to be worth every penny. In a game last year against the Seahawks, Thomas had an NFL-record seven sacks.

**Burt Grossman, Chargers, \$400,000.** The affable defensive end, who dazzles opponents with his bulletin board quotes as well as his formidable pass-rush skills, benefits by playing alongside such stars as Leslie O'Neal and Lee Williams.

**Jeff Cross, Dolphins, \$350,000.** Cross was an unheralded ninth-round pick out of Missouri in 1988. But after producing 10 sacks in '89, the Dolphins rewarded him with a new contract last year.

**Keith McCants, Buccaneers, \$2.95 million.** The Bucs envisioned another Lawrence Taylor when they drafted McCants with their first pick last year, but he needs a little more seasoning.

**Junior Seau, Chargers, \$2.18 million.** Count on Seau and Grossman leading the Chargers to the top of the sack heap within a year or two.

## You have to go home now—the game ended two days ago

Some running backs run, others catch, and a select few do both. While the era of specialization has not spared the position, there are still some all-purpose backs who simply won't get off the field.

**Thurman Thomas, Bills, \$600,000.** There was a good reason Barry Sanders was on the bench when Thomas was in

his heyday at Oklahoma State. Thomas may well be the most well-rounded back in today's game.

**Barry Sanders, Lions, \$620,000.** The Lions invested heavily to get him in the first round in 1989, and it paid off. While Thomas is clearly the best of the AFC, Sanders may be tops in the NFC.

**Neal Anderson, Bears, \$2.2 million.** There might be some argument from Bears fans as to who's the best in the NFC. Did you ever think Walter Payton would be replaced so quickly?

**Roger Craig, 49ers, \$1.5 million.** Craig was bothered by knee problems last season, but he remains an effective rushing and receiving threat.

**John L. Williams, Seahawks, \$800,000.** Curt Warner became expendable last year, largely because of the dual talents of Williams.

## The good things in life don't come cheap—at least, not more than once

Unheralded young players who establish themselves early will have to wait their turn for the big money. A word to the wise from agents who specialize in signing lower-round picks: Don't sign a long-term deal right off the bat. Here are a few players who are in line for a nice big raise on their next contract:

**Marion Butts, Chargers, \$100,000.** Butts signed a three-year, \$315,000 deal in 1989, but you can expect general manager Bobby Beathard to tear that deal up soon. The former Florida State blocking back is one of the NFL's premier rushers.

**Johnny Johnson, Cardinals, \$117,000.** Too bad Johnson was kicked off the San Jose State team as a senior. His questionable attitude prompted a precipitous drop from a sure first-rounder to a seventh-round "gamble" last year by the

Cardinals. But he showed early in 1990 he's worthy of first-round money—and he's sure to get it.

**Myron Guyton, Giants, \$95,000.** One of the steals of the 1989 draft, this eighth-round sleeper has been a starter the last two seasons. Can a 1991 holdout be far behind?

**Derrick Fenner, Seahawks, \$85,000.** In 1989 the Seahawks rolled the dice on Fenner in the 10th round of the draft, and he paid off their gamble by carrying the rushing load in Seattle for much of the season.

**Heath Sherman, Eagles, \$100,000.** This 1989 sixth-round surprise may finally solve the riddle of the Eagles' incredible shrinking running game, which has forced scrambling quarterback Randall Cunningham to shoulder most of the load in recent years.



**Buffalo's lucky Thomas isn't paid by the skill.**



## Stay away! He's got a bomb!

Nothing like a little blazing speed to get you by a cornerback. While some receivers seem to thrive on the short route, others are content being on the other end of a long downfield heave:

**Jerry Rice, 49ers, \$1.5 million.** Rice can slice a defense any way he likes. Going long is only one of his methods.

**Flipper Anderson, Rams, \$200,000.** Anderson is usually near the top of the charts in average yards per catch. His raw speed is the reason.

**Anthony Miller, Chargers, \$262,500.** The former 1988 first-round pick figures to catch a lot more bombs from quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver.

**Willie Gault, Raiders, \$800,000.** The former Olympic sprinter and part-time bobsledder spends most of his time running deep routes for the Raiders.

**John Taylor, 49ers, \$480,000.** Must be nice to have Rice take all the double coverage. Taylor has a field day going one-on-one down the sidelines while the defense converges on his fleet teammate.

## Quit throwing things at me!

Some backs don't need to catch passes to be effective: They simply run over people as the means to their end. And you won't find their respective teams complaining about their one-dimensional abilities.

**Christian Okoye, Chiefs, \$785,000.** Okoye almost never mans the passing attack—and with good reason. He's too powerful running between the tackles.

**Marion Butts, Chargers, \$100,000.** Like Okoye, Butts need do little else but take the quarterback's handoff and go.

**Eric Dickerson, Colts, \$2.2 million.** Remember Dickerson? Despite a long, bitter contract dispute last year, he remains one of the league's dominant performers—and one of the best runners in the history of the NFL.

**Bobby Humphrey, Broncos, \$340,000.** The Broncos finally found the solution to their problem at running back. Too bad the rest of the team couldn't keep up with this super soph last year.

**Gerald Riggs, Redskins, \$910,000.** The Redskins gave up a bundle to the Falcons for Riggs for 1989. While the hard-running back hasn't lived up to expectations, he remains among the NFL's elite.

## Small deposit, big return

There's nothing like someone breaking a long punt or kickoff

return to give a team a lift. Unfortunately for the have-nots, there are only so many of these specialists to go around. Here are the best:

**David Meggett, Giants, \$105,000.** Meggett went to the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 1989. He just missed last year, but figures to make the trip to Honolulu a few more times.

**Mel Gray, Lions, \$300,000.** The Saints lost Gray to the Lions as a Plan B free agent in 1989.

**Clarence Verdin, Colts, \$350,000.** The speedy wide receiver doubles as a punt and kickoff returner.

**Rod Woodson, Steelers, \$400,000.** There's no secret to Woodson's success: It's flat-out speed.

**Herschel Walker, \$2.25 million.** Walker may have had his problems running the ball this year, but he's always been one of the NFL's premier kickoff returners.

## Did my head just fall off?

Pity the poor possession receiver. It's his job to cut across the field with his back to the secondary and catch those over-the-middle passes. The catch almost always is followed by the thud of a cornerback or safety crashing into his back. No wonder teams place such a high value on these tough guys in the receiving corps:

**Al Toon, Jets, \$1.25 million.** How tough is Toon? He played part of the 1990 season with a broken vertebrae, courtesy of an early-season collision in a game against the Bills.

**Art Monk, Redskins, \$900,000.** Next stop after Monk's career is over is the Hall of Fame.

**Andre Reed, Bills, \$925,000.** Reed's uncanny prowess on third and long is a major reason for Jim Kelly's success in Buffalo.

**Webster Slaughter, Browns, \$500,000.** Too bad the Browns had such problems last year. Slaughter, as always, was only too willing to sacrifice himself for a first down.

**Drew Hill, Oilers, \$800,000.** At 34, Hill may have lost a step, but none of his toughness. When the Oilers need a big play, this wily veteran knows how to get it done.



## Hey, these guys hit a lot harder than Buster Douglas

Marty McSorley was regarded as a laugh-a-minute stumblebum when he made his NHL debut in 1983. However, nobody's smirking at McSorley anymore—least of all his accountants. Marty pulls in a handsome \$220,000 a year as Wayne Gretzky's bodyguard and the leader of the L.A. asault force. But McSorley already is taking a back seat to some of the new breed, whose salaries will rise as more opponents fall. The candidates:

**Troy Crowder, Devils, \$105,000.** Early-season victories over heavyweight champ Bob Probert and toughy Jeff



**McSorley's paid very well to pass out the pounding.**

Chychrun have given Crowder a Mike Tyson-on-ice image. Besides that, he can score the occasional goal. At this price, he's well worth it.

**Troy Mallette, Rangers, \$150,000.** This mean machine

# HOCKEY

pulls in a decent salary, but he'll double that pretty soon as he continues to torpedo the foe.

**Craig Berube, Flyers, \$130,000.** One of the few goons with enough guts to go head-to-head with Crowder, he is vastly underpaid. That will change this spring, though, when he goes the free-agent route.

**Basil McRae, North Stars, \$250,000.** Although his intimidating days are gone, the once-fearsome Basil somehow managed to wangle one of the best deals any nonheavyweight champion ever pulled off. He's

getting a quarter-mil a year, more for staring than rumbling.

**Craig Coxe, Canucks, \$200,000.** The Canucks toughy looked more like a pretender to the throne than the heir apparent when Crowder pulverized him early this season. But Coxe took the stitches and the money and is laughing all the way to the infirmary.

**Jay Miller, Kings, \$180,000.** When they have the luxury of rotating goons to protect Gretzky, the Kings can't complain about overpayment. Miller rakes in the bucks, mostly as the Kings' undercard.

## Revenge is a dish best served cold, and this guy'll make a pig of himself

When the Vancouver Canucks' front office learned that it could untangle Soviet ace Vladimir Krutov from Soviet red tape, they did cartwheels of joy. His \$375,000 contract seemed well worth the price, considering the commotion he caused in British Columbia. There was one problem: Krutov proved he would rather eat than skate. As a matter of fact, he ate himself right out of the NHL, and the Canucks are still kicking themselves for the blunder.

But the Vancouver brass has covered its losses by paying Trevor Linden, the Canucks' most dedicated and determined young forward, a skimpy \$130,000 just because they know he's too nice to bitch. "I went to them and said 'I'm an average player—can I be paid like one?'" says Linden. "They said no. But I'm not one to worry about it or let it bother me. I'll get them next time, or it will be see you later." Bet that it will be the former.

**Linden: The longer you wait, the more you'll pay me.**



## The Bourque discrepancy

Early this season it was noted that the Penguins' Phil Bourque puts in as much useful time (at considerably less money) as the Bourque, Ray of the Bruins, who is no relation. Phil, who plays on the left wing for the Penguins, pulls in \$150,000 a year. By contrast, the Bourque will make \$1.1 million a year for the next four, and when he retires the Bruins will present him with \$150,000 a year for the first five years after he packs it in.

Why the discrepancy? Ray has been an All-Star every year and has won three Norris trophies.

## Goodwill ambassadors

Hockey needs all the selling it can get. Fortunately, there are innumerable stick-handlers who are super with the media win, lose, or tie. The following are so good they should earn a special added stipend from the



**Maloney earns his money with PR, not plus/minus.**

league under the heading "For Promotional Purposes":

**Don Maloney, \$240,000**  
Islanders  
**Dave Poulin, \$310,000**  
Bruins  
**Doug Wilson, \$550,000**  
Blackhawks  
**Kevin Lowe, \$450,000**  
Oilers  
**Tony Granato, \$210,000**  
Kings  
**Ryan Walter, \$340,000**  
Canadiens



## If less were more, these guys would be monsters

*The overpaid overrateds:*

**Michel Goulet, Blackhawks, \$600,000.** His best days were spent in Quebec, and that is too long ago to remember.

**Dave Taylor, Kings, \$900,000.** Dave was never the same after the Triple Crown Line, with Charlie Simmer and Marcel Dionne, was uncoupled.

**Wendel Clark, Maple Leafs, \$265,000.** Once upon a time there was Wendelmania in Toronto, but that was long ago. Between a bad back and a bad team, Clark is reduced to just a cut above mediocrity.

**Sergei Makarov, Flames, \$375,000.** Awarding the schizophrenic Soviet the Calder Trophy was joke No. 1 on the NHL's laugh parade. Less amusing to the Calgary contingent is Makarov's inability to play close to his capabilities.

**Jimmy Carson, Red Wings, \$400,000.** When Jimmy Develano unloaded Adam Graves, Petr Klima, Joe Murphy, and Jeff Sharples for Carson and Kevin McClelland, the Red Wings figured they had the home-brewed sharpshooter of their dreams. But Jimmy in Motown is still an off-key, dissonant rhapsody of injury and nonproduction. He's headed for another subpar effort, and only a 50-goal year in 1991 can redeem this disaster.

## Here's the deal: We give you \$10 million, and then we never see you again

*The who-owes-whom department:*

**Ron Hextall, Flyers, \$3.5 million** (over five years) guaranteed, with a ton of bonuses. Give Hexy credit: He played only eight out of a potential 80 games last season and pulled down \$300,000—then he had the *chutzpah* to demand a renegotiation upward, and, lo and behold, he got it. So with a new, improved

deal, what does he do? The Slasher gets hurt faster than you can say "Ken Wregget"; by the beginning of December Hextall had played a grand total of four games.

**Mario Lemieux, Penguins, \$2.2 million.** What has *Le Grande Magnifique* given the Penguins since last winter? Migraines, that's what. Lemieux missed the homestretch with his bad back, then got himself some summertime surgery, and then didn't play in a single game through the new year. If you think it's sad for Igloo fans, think about how little fun it is for Penguins owner Edward DeBartolo Sr.

**Greg Millen, Blackhawks, \$280,000.** The Blackhawks thought they had found the key to a Stanley Cup when they obtained Greg Millen last season. Too bad. The high-priced Millen not only bombed in the playoffs, but wound up sitting this year behind Ed Belfour, Jacques Cloutier, and Jimmy Waite (fresh from the minors). "Before the season is over they may need an old goat around here," says Millen. Sure, Greg, but at these prices?



Hexy in the net—and this is *not* a doctored photo.

## 1990-91's TOP 10

1	Wayne Gretzky	.....Kings	\$3,000,000
2	Mario Lemieux	.....Penguins	2,200,000
3	Brett Hull	.....Blues	1,600,000
4	Steve Yzerman	.....Red Wings	1,400,000
	Patrick Roy	.....Canadiens	1,400,000
6	Scott Stevens	.....Blues	1,300,000
7	Denis Savard	.....Canadiens	1,250,000
	Ray Bourque	.....Bruins	1,250,000
9	Chris Chelios	.....Blackhawks	1,200,000
10	Paul Coffey	.....Penguins	1,100,000
	Mark Messier	.....Oilers	1,100,000

Figures are 1990-91 base salaries including signing bonuses and deferred money; incentives not included.

## Of course, take out Gretzky and Lemieux and it's back down to \$15,000

When Alan Eagleson organized the NHL Players Association in 1967, the average salary was less than \$15,000. By

1970-71 it had climbed to \$25,000, and by the end of this season the average salary will have soared to \$240,000.

## Mom sews torn jerseys after the game, and Uncle Ferdie pops popcorn, and . . .

Hockey's a good family business. If you don't believe it, ask the brothers Mullen, Sutter, and Miller, each of whom is doing well, thank you. To wit:

**Joe Mullen, \$450,000**

Penguins

**Brian Mullen, \$300,000**

Rangers

**Brent Sutter, \$310,000**

Islanders

**Ron Sutter, \$250,000**

Flyers

**Rich Sutter, \$225,000**

Blues



The NHL's been very good to Joe Mullen & Family.

**Kelly Miller, \$250,000**

Capitals

**Kevin Miller, \$140,000**

Rangers

## And when you think about it, who's going to do a better job in the pipes?

A Mike Luit, who will never make the Hockey Hall of Fame for his puck-stopping, pulls in \$450,000 a year. Compare that to the legendary Glenn Hall, regarded by many as the greatest goalie of all time (mostly with the Chicago Blackhawks). When Hall-of-Famer Hall broke into the NHL—he was voted rookie of the year in 1956—he was earning \$6,000. The most

he ever made was \$65,000, delivered in his final season, 1970-71 with St. Louis. But Hall feels no bitterness about it.

"We didn't care much in those days what we made," says Hall. "Nobody was in the game for the money then."

"Plumbers were making the same we were, but I don't know of any plumber today making a million dollars."

# FINALLY. A MOIST SNUFF



## GOAL MINE

How much hockey's top goal-scorers cost in 1989-90:

Player, Team	Goals	Dollars per goal
Brett Hull, Blues	72	\$ 1,736
Steve Yzerman, Red Wings	62	11,290
Cam Neely, Bruins	55	5,909
Brian Bellows, North Stars	55	5,455
Pat LaFontaine, Islanders	54	7,407

## If you've got the talent, this guy will get you the money

If you are a young hockey player and you want to make big bucks, who is the agent most likely to come through for you? The consensus among top NHL players, and especially the youth brigade, leans toward Toronto rep Don Meehan.

The tall, balding, mustachioed attorney handles Norris Trophy winner Chris Chelios of Chicago, Smythe Trophy winner Al MacInnis of Calgary, Islanders ace Pat LaFontaine, and the Canucks' Trevor Linden, whom many be-

lieve should have won the rookie of the year award in 1988-89. At the 1990 draft, Meehan represented two of the league's top picks, Jaromir Jagr and Petr Nedved.

Meehan, who began representing players eight years ago, now has 60 NHL players in the fold. What is the secret to his success? "I worked hard, harder than anyone else, and I've had ethics," says Meehan. "I don't find myself in tugs of war over clients. I build my practice through the draft."

## Just walk up to Neil Smith and say, 'Howdy, partner'

Brian Leetch hasn't won a Norris Trophy yet, but he could have a half-dozen pieces of silverware before the decade is up. The former U.S. Olympian plays like a latter-day Doug Harvey. The bad news: Leetch is pulling in just \$250,000 before bonuses. The good news: The razzle-dazzle redhead becomes a free agent after next

season (June 1992). Leetch's people will be asking for a long-term deal worth \$2 million a year. If the Rangers don't come through, Leetch (a former prep hockey star in Connecticut) knows that Hartford will, and if not the Whales, most certainly the Bruins, who are well aware that many of Brian's relatives live in the Boston area.

## Move over, Merrill-Lynch—here's an investment that really paid off

A year ago, Brett Hull was paid a paltry \$125,000 en route to a 72-goal season. The Golden Brett wisely played out his option—under the guidance of player's union boss Bob Goodenow—while his value soared faster than real estate in Tokyo. As a result, the Blues were tickled to sign him at \$5.5 million over four years.

Was he worth it? By early January, Hull already had 44 goals in 43 games, 30% of the Blues' total. Even more remarkable, he became the most visible star in St. Louis hockey history. The Blues raised ticket prices from \$4 to \$6 per ducat, but still have enjoyed an increase of about 3,000 season ticket holders.

# GOOD ENOUGH





# TO BE CALLED



## WAYNE GRETZKY VS. BRETT HULL

Hull had Gretzky-like numbers in 1989-90, but The Great One was the one who cashed in at the bank.

Gretzky:

Dollars per shot: \$7,288 (236)  
Dollars per point: \$12,113 (142)  
Dollars per assist: \$16,863 (102)  
Dollars per goal: \$43,000 (40)  
Dollars per game: \$23,562 (73)

Hull:

Dollars per shot: \$325 (385)  
Dollars per point: \$1,106 (113)  
Dollars per assist: \$3,049 (41)  
Dollars per goal: \$1,736 (72)  
Dollars per game: \$1,563 (80)



## Between periods they're expected to spit-polish the Zamboni

*The most underpaid guys on ice:*

Could you skate for 60 full minutes with no rest, and also blow the whistle for offsides, break up fights—and *more* fights—and help referees make the calls they missed? That's the job of an NHL linesman

such as Pat Dapuzzo, who pulls in about \$40,000. Meanwhile, an aging, behind the play, patrician referee such as Andy van Hellemond takes in way more than \$100,000 annually and never lifts a finger to break up a fight.

## PAID PER POINT

How much hockey's top point-producers cost in 1989-90:

Player, Team	Points	Dollars per point
Wayne Gretzky, Kings .....	142	\$12,113
Mark Messier, Oilers .....	129	6,451
Steve Yzerman, Red Wings .....	127	5,512
Mario Lemieux, Penguins .....	123	16,260
Brett Hull, Blues .....	113	1,106

## By rights, he'll make his NHL debut in this year's All-Star Game

The player who soon will be the most expensive man in hockey isn't even in the NHL today, but he will be next September. Eric (The Behemoth) Lindros stands 6'4" and weighs more than 200 pounds, and he's still growing. He plays for the Ontario Junior League's Oshawa Generals, and is so many light years ahead of his competition it's already a given that he'll be drafted first in June.

Since Lindros is universally thought to be a franchise-maker in the mold of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux, he will

command the biggest contract ever delivered to a player who hasn't skated in a pro game yet. "If Quebec gets him," says one well-informed NHL agent, "Lindros should be worth \$4 million over three years."

But will he be worth it? Probably not. The 1989 No. 1 overall pick, Mats Sundin, has been less than overwhelming, as has the 1990 top choice, Owen Nolan. When you're drafting 18-year-olds, you're in a crapshoot. The only sure winners this year will be Lindros' bank book and his agent, Rick Curran.

# RED MAN.



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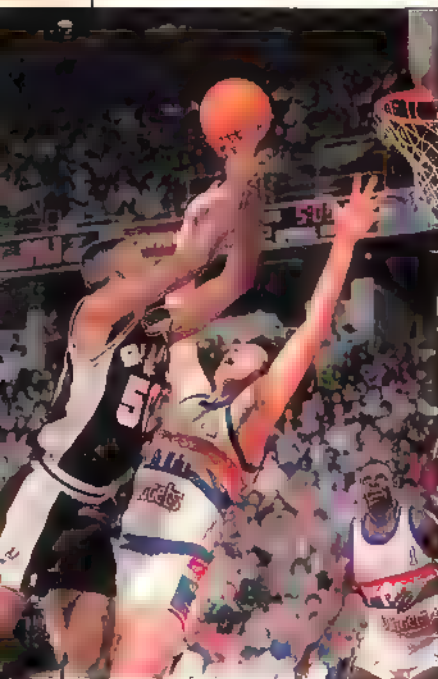
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## And if Exxon makes \$8 billion, I get nine

Centers David Robinson of the Spurs and Patrick Ewing of the Knicks have contracts that guarantee they will rank among the highest-paid in their sport for years to come.

In 1987 Robinson signed a 10-year, \$26 million deal (good actually for eight playing years, since he was paid during the two years he fulfilled a military commitment to the Navy). Robinson's clause works like this: If



### A new cheer for Robinson: 'I'm No. 2—or you'll pay.'

he makes the All-Star team in two of his first three years (which he accomplished easily in this, his second season) he must become one of the two highest-paid players in the league by the end of Year 3 or he can become a restricted free agent.

Ewing's clause states that he must be in the top four by the end of his sixth season—he originally signed a 10-year, \$33 million deal—or he, too, can become a restricted free agent. He is completing his sixth season now (and the Knicks wish they'd never heard of Hot Rod Williams).

# BASKETBALL

## 1990-91's TOP 20

1	John (Hot Rod) Williams ...Cavaliers	\$5,000,000
2	Patrick Ewing .....Knicks	4,257,500
3	Akeem Olajuwon .....Rockets	4,062,450
4	Karl Malone .....Jazz	3,300,000
5	Danny Ferry .....Cavaliers	3,000,000
	Sam Perkins .....Lakers	3,000,000
7	Charles Barkley .....76ers	2,900,000
8	Magic Johnson .....Lakers	2,892,860
9	Derrick Coleman .....Nets	2,700,000
10	Michael Jordan .....Bulls	2,550,000
	Chris Mullin .....Warriors	2,550,000
12	Moses Malone .....Hawks	2,506,000
13	Bernard King .....Bullets	2,500,000
	Robert Parish .....Celtics	2,500,000
15	Danny Manning .....Clippers	2,200,000
	Blair Rasmussen .....Nuggets	2,200,000
	Dennis Scott .....Magic	2,200,000
18	Chuck Person .....Pacers	2,100,000
19	David Robinson .....Spurs	2,050,000
20	Sam Bowie .....Nets	2,000,000
	Ralph Sampson .....Kings	2,000,000
	LaSalle Thompson .....Kings	2,000,000
	Dominique Wilkins .....Hawks	2,000,000

Figures are 1990-91 base salaries including signing bonuses and deferred payments, incentives not included.

## Instant Millionaire: Just take one rookie and add money

Fourteen 1990-91 rookies signed pacts guaranteeing them \$1 million or more for their maiden voyage through the NBA, nine more instant millionaires than in '89-90. These might not be the five richest rookie deals, but they are the five best:

Danny Ferry, Cavaliers, \$34 million over 10 years. Only seven years are fully guaranteed, and he basically has to prove himself a solid player to have a chance at receiving the

If Ferry's feeling a pinch, it's only on the court.



whole package. Nonetheless, it's a whopper of a contract.

Dennis Scott, Magic, \$12 million over five years. In an era when many players accept deferred money, which lowers a deal's total value, Scott took all his money up front over the life of the pact—a move as good as any on the court.

Negele Knight, Suns, \$1.775 million over four years. Second-round picks rarely receive more than one year fully guaranteed. Knight, the 31st pick in the draft, got four. If he's worth it, of course, he'll need to renegotiate in two.

Derrick Coleman, Nets, \$15 million over five years. Sounds great, but the last year of the deal—worth \$4 million—isn't guaranteed, and some of the earlier guaranteed money is deferred, making it a watered-down \$3 million-a-year package. But you'd take it, wouldn't you?

Elden Campbell, Lakers, \$1.725 million over three years. Campbell, who was selected last in the first round of the 1990 draft, received a \$300,000 signing bonus. The final first-rounder in the '89 draft, Kenny Battle, received \$650,000 over two years. Shelton Jones, the 27th pick in the draft in 1988, received one year guaranteed at \$150,000. You get the picture.

## I'm really sorry, you guys—I feel like such a cheapskate

Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller apparently felt his two stars, Karl Malone and John Stockton, were underpaid last year with salaries of \$1.8 million and \$1.05 million, respectively. So he called them in, patted them on their backs, and handed them new deals worth a combined \$40.4 million, all guaranteed. The breakdown:

Malone: Eight years, \$27.2 million. Average salary: \$3.4 million.

Stockton: Six years, \$13.2 million. Average salary: \$2.2 million.



## PAID PER POINT

How much the NBA's top 10 scorers cost in 1989-90:

Player, Team	Avg.	Dollars per point
1. Michael Jordan, Bulls	33.6	\$ 926
2. Karl Malone, Jazz	31.0	709
3. Patrick Ewing, Knicks	28.6	1,704
4. Tom Chambers, Suns	27.2	1,000
5. Dominique Wilkins, Hawks	26.7	889
6. Charles Barkley, 76ers	25.2	754
7. Chris Mullin, Warriors	25.1	1,278
8. Reggie Miller, Pacers	24.6	223
9. Akeem Olajuwon, Rockets	24.3	952
10. David Robinson, Spurs	24.3	1,029



**MJ:** The best player in the game, and still a bargain.

## You're forgetting that all these guys get to watch the game for free

The NBA's five most underpaid players:

**Scottie Pippen, Bulls, \$765,000.** Spent much of the season attempting to renegotiate, and with good reason. His current pact has two more years remaining at the Bulls' option for \$900,000 and \$1.1 million, hardly worthy of an All-Star.

**Rony Seikaly, Heat, \$750,000.** He keeps improving and has proved he belongs. In fact, it could be argued that he already ranks among the top five centers in the Eastern Conference. His pay doesn't reflect anything close to that.

**Tim Hardaway, Warriors, \$500,000.** He logged around

20 points per night while ranking among the league leaders in steals and assists this season, yet earns less than half the league average—and he's only halfway through a four-year deal.

**Rod Strickland, Spurs, \$400,000.** He got the trade he wanted to escape from the shadow of Mark Jackson in New York. Now he deserves to be

paid like a starter on an elite NBA team, because that's exactly what he is in San Antonio.

**Kevin Gamble, Celtics, \$350,000.** The Celtics took a calculated gamble by signing the ex-CBAer as a free agent in December 1988. Now he should become a calculating Gamble and make the C's front office pay him an honest year's wages.

## This Sampson should have his sneakers cut off

Here are five guys who probably have their paychecks directly deposited into bank accounts. Otherwise, they might have to look someone in the front office in the eye as they collect their wages:

**Ralph Sampson, Kings, \$2 million.** After offering Ralphie around the league and finding no takers, the Kings wanted to make their pauper the highest-paid assistant coach in history—just so he would quit wearing the uniform.

**Moses Malone, Hawks, \$2.506 million.** There was a time when he deserved as much pay as anyone in the league. But that was three or four years ago; he spent much of this season coming off the bench to back up Jon Koncak in Bob Weiss' motion offense.

**Pervis Ellison, Bullets, \$1.8 million.** In three years he has gone from "Never Nervous Pervis" to "Out of Service Pervis" to "He Doesn't Deserve It Pervis." But he cashed in on a five-year, \$11.5 million deal because he was the No. 1 pick in the 1989 draft.

**Sleepy Floyd, Rockets, \$1.4 million.** Wake up,

Houston management. Sleepy hasn't shot better than .451 from the field in his first four NBA seasons, and you responded by signing him for four more (total guaranteed payout: \$6 million).



**The Kings' investment in Sampson? A junk bond.**

**LaSalle Thompson, Pacers, \$2 million.** A hard worker who grabs rebounds and can play a little defense, but is he worth \$2 mil? Hardly. He is extremely limited offensively and far too foul-prone on defense.

## It's because I also drive the team bus

**Ed Nealy, who had never made more than \$250,000 in a single season, became an unrestricted free agent last summer and signed a three-year, fully guaranteed deal with Phoenix worth \$2.1 million. He'll earn \$600,000 this season alone—not bad for a hard-working guy**

**who has been waived three times, traded twice, and spent parts of two seasons in the Continental Basketball Association. Of course, he has never averaged more than 4.4 points in the NBA, so some question why Phoenix thought he was worth so much.**

## DOLLARS PER BOARD

How much the NBA's top five rebounders cost in 1989-90:

Player, Team	Avg.	Dollars per rebound
1. Akeem Olajuwon, Rockets ..	14.0	\$1,654
2. David Robinson, Spurs .....	12.0	2,085
3. Charles Barkley, 76ers .....	11.5	1,650
4. Karl Malone, Jazz .....	11.1	1,976
5. Patrick Ewing, Knicks .....	10.9	4,479



On the boards, Akeem's definitely a money player.

## Pleasure deferred is—well, a lot of fun later on

What do Larry Bird, Clyde Drexler, and Isiah Thomas have in common? Besides the fact that they are great players, they also will earn great paychecks in the near future. Here's what they earn this season in salary and bonuses, and what they will

be owed in the most lucrative year of their current contracts:

**Bird:** \$1.5 million this season, \$7.07 million next season (\$4.87 million of which is a signing bonus).

**Thomas:** \$1.22 million (plus incentives) this season, \$7.1 million in 1995-96, the final year of his contract.

**Drexler:** \$1.2 million this season, \$8.05 million in 1995-96, the contract's final year.

## I feel really good about this. Don't you? Are you sure? Right, so am I

In 1988 Indiana's Detlef Schrempf signed a 10-year deal with the Pacers, but both parties apparently entered the agreement with considerable trepidation. Schrempf earned \$900,000 in the first year of the contract, and his salary will go up in \$100,000 increments each year, with 30% of the money deferred.

Here are the contract's unique catches: After five years, the Pacers have the right to break the contract, but they would have to pay all of its deferred money (\$1.75 million). And if Schrempf wants to break the contract after the fifth year (1993-94), he also can do so—but he would then forfeit the deferred money in question.

## Talent shortage? Who says there's a talent shortage?

How badly did the Lakers want Larry Drew to become their back-up point guard behind Magic Johnson? Badly enough to give him a three-year, fully guaranteed contract that paid him \$500,000 last sea-

son, \$550,000 this year, and \$660,000 in 1991-92.

Drew hasn't been worth it so far. He averaged just 5.2 points and 2.7 assists per game last season and hit only 44% of his shots from the field.

## PAID PER ASSIST

How much these NBA guards cost per assist in 1989-90:

Player, Team	Avg.	Dollars per assist
John Stockton, Jazz .....	14.5	\$ 882
Magic Johnson, Lakers .....	11.5	3,418
Kevin Johnson, Suns .....	11.4	1,773
Isiah Thomas, Pistons .....	9.4	1,477
Terry Porter, Trail Blazers ..	9.1	2,479
Mark Jackson, Knicks .....	7.4	2,980

## This gives new meaning to pay-back time

Michael Jordan started it, three players of note, plus Jon Koncak, took pay cuts so their teams could sign veteran players and still stay under the NBA's \$11.871 million (per team) salary cap. Here are the players and how much of their salaries they surrendered in the 1990-91 season:

**Michael Jordan, Bulls,** \$400,000. He dropped out of the \$3 million neighborhood so Chicago could sign guard Den-

nis Hopson, who has been a disappointment.

**Magic Johnson, Lakers,** \$250,000. He dropped below \$3 million in salary so his team could take on a veteran, Terry Teagle, who has not thrilled it.

**Glenn Rivers and Jon Koncak, Hawks,** \$100,000 each. This has been money well spent; it was used to sign Sidney Moncrief, a competent player when his knees permit.

## A dud of a deal

The New Jersey Nets' Chris Dudley, who entered NBA history by missing 17 consecutive free throws in a single game, signed a three-year, \$3.3 mil-

lion extension last summer. Based on his career averages, that means he will earn \$14,798.21 for each free throw he misses over the life of his new contract—or \$24,087.59 for each one he sinks.



# COME ON, BE A GOOD SPORT.



Wear your favorite team colors, and be a good sport. Wear Nutmeg, and be a good looking sport. Because Nutmeg fan wear has the look that stands out from the crowd. With hot shot graphics. Trend-setting designs. And heavy-duty fabrics as tough as the sport itself.

Now you can be part of history's most treasured teams. Our weathered nostalgia shirts take you back in time. And put you ahead in fashion.

So be a good looking sport. Wear Nutmeg.



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FAN WEAR TO CHEER ABOUT.

## Take some advice, kid—don't quit your day job

Some fighters earn less for a bout than Sugar Ray Leonard spends for a business suit. Here's the payday for a fighter at three regular venues:

**ESPN's Weekly Fight Series, \$400-\$600.** It's been the training ground of some of today's top pugilists, plus you usually get the chance to be introduced by Michael Buffer, and your "Hi, Mom," is seen in 57 million homes.

**Great Western Forum, Inglewood, Calif., \$500.** The money's so-so, but there's one fringe benefit: You get to lace on the gloves in the same dressing room where Magic Johnson laces on his hightops and Wayne Gretzky laces on his skates.

**NHL games, \$2,000.** Don't worry about shooting, skating, or checking. Goons such as Alan May and Shane Churla make a pretty penny for doing little more than throwing haymakers.

# BOXING

## 1990's TOP 10

1	Buster Douglas	.....Heavyweight	\$25,400,000
2	Mike Tyson	.....Heavyweight	18,500,000
3	Evander Holyfield	...Heavyweight	9,500,000
4	George Foreman	....Heavyweight	3,025,000
5	Nigel Benn	.....Middleweight	2,760,000*
6	Gerry Cooney	.....Heavyweight	2,500,000
7	Julio Cesar Chavez	..Jr. Wlwt.	2,225,000
8	Hector Camacho	....Jr. Wlwt.	2,000,000
9	Michael Nunn	.....Middleweight	1,888,250
10	Thomas Hearns	.....Super Midwt.	1,500,000

Figures are gross purse(s) before any deductions or expenses.

\*Benn is British and is paid in pounds; his earnings have been converted to American dollars.

## The secret of Buster's astonishing waistline—he was making almost a hundred grand per pound

The most overpaid fighters of 1990:

**Buster Douglas.** We weren't offended that Douglas was paid \$24.1 million for his October defense against Evander Holyfield—at least not until it became apparent that he'd only trained about 24 minutes. Scale-Buster came into the ring at a gargantuan 246 pounds and fell from the first solid punch that hit him.

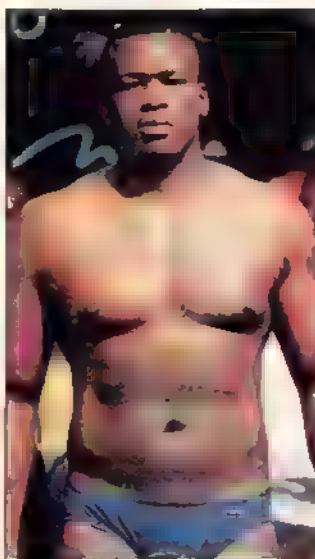
**Gerry Cooney.** Gentleman Gerry was paid \$2.5 million for his first night on the job in almost three years, a January clash with George Foreman. The Foreman punched his clock at 1:57 of the second round; thus, Cooney made \$500,000 per minute of "work."

**Mike Tyson.** After losing to Douglas, Iron Mike was paid \$4.5 million a fight for confidence builders against Henry Tillman and Alex Stewart, both

of whom appeared petrified and were knocked out in the first round by glancing blows.

... And the most underpaid:

**Maybe Douglas thought the heaviest weight won.**



**Julio Cesar Chavez and Meldrick Taylor:** Boxing's best matchup since Hagler vs. Hearns in 1985 turned out to be its best fight since that classic, as well. But after providing 12 rounds of nonstop action and the most dramatic finish in title-fight history, Chavez walked away with only \$1.4 million and Taylor with \$1.1 million. That adds up to \$2.5 million—or what Cooney got for crashing against Foreman.

**Pernell Whitaker and Azumah Nelson:** It is rare when two of boxing's top five fighters, pound-for-pound square off, but lightweight king Whitaker and junior lightweight titlist Nelson did that in Las Vegas in May. Proof that boxing's little guys are still struggling for respect was found in the purses. Whitaker was paid just \$500,000, and Nelson collected \$300,000.

## Of course, being an ex-champ hasn't helped much, either

Mike Tyson's out-of-the-ring exploits have KO'd his commercial appeal. Compare his endorsement deals before and after his highly publicized divorce from Robin Givens and his streetfight with Mitch Green:

### BEFORE

Sponsor	Payday
Diet Pepsi	\$1,250,000
Toyota	\$800,000 (and two trucks)
Nintendo	\$750,000
Suntory Beer	\$600,000
Kodak	\$250,000
Signet Bank	\$100,000 (Washington, D.C.)

### AFTER

Toyota	\$800,000
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## Yeah, but when you have to work with Stallone you ought to get paid more

For his reel-life portrayal of a heavyweight champ in "Rocky V," Tommy Morrison was paid \$100,000. In his real-life role as



**This kid's good: A movie with Sly—and no scars.**

an undefeated heavyweight prospect, Morrison's highest purse has been \$40,000.





**Tyson cashed in on his confidence builder with Tillman.**

## Give Buster some credit—he stayed on his feet for almost nine minutes

Earnings per bout for the top 10 money winners:

<b>Buster Douglas</b> . . . . .	KO 10 Mike Tyson	\$ 1,300,000
	KO by 3 Evander Holyfield	24,100,000
<b>Mike Tyson</b> . . . . .	KO by 10 Buster Douglas	9,500,000
	KO 1 Henry Tillman	4,500,000
	KO 1 Alex Stewart	4,500,000
<b>Evander Holyfield</b> . . . . .	KO 4 Seamus McDonagh	1,200,000
	KO 3 Buster Douglas	8,300,000
<b>George Foreman</b> . . . . .	KO 2 Gerry Cooney	1,200,000
	KO 4 Mike Jameson	250,000
	KO 2 Adilson Rodrigues	1,000,000
	KO 3 Ken Lakusta	250,000
	KO 1 Terry Anderson	325,000
<b>Nigel Benn</b> . . . . .	W 10 Sanderline Williams	100,000
	KO 8 Doug DeWitt	300,000
	KO 1 Iran Barkley	610,000
	KO by 9 Chris Eubank	1,750,000
<b>Gerry Cooney</b> . . . . .	KO by 2 George Foreman	2,500,000
<b>Julio Cesar Chavez</b> . . . . .	KO 12 Meldrick Taylor	1,400,000
	KO 2 Razor Addo	400,000
	KO 3 Russell Mosley	25,000
	KO 4 Rocky Balboa	50,000
	KO 3 Kyung Duk Ahn	350,000
<b>Hector Camacho</b> . . . . .	W 12 Vinny Pazienza	1,000,000
	W 12 Tony Baltazar	1,000,000
<b>Michael Nunn</b> . . . . .	W 12 Marlon Starling	1,250,000
	KO 10 Donald Curry	638,250
<b>Thomas Hearns</b> . . . . .	W 12 Michael Olajide	1,500,000

## Potpourri of pugilism

In a career that spanned 13 years and 106 bouts, former middleweight champion **Jake LaMotta's** highest payday was \$75,000. He earned \$250,000 for serving as technical consultant on the film "Raging Bull," the story of his life.

Though **Frank Bruno** is the most inactive contender in the top 10, the British heavyweight remains enormously popular in England. He receives \$160,000 a year to endorse HP Sauce, and \$8,000 per personal appearance. He averages an appearance a week.

For his work on HBO's boxing telecasts, announcer **Jim**

**Lampley** earns a reported \$212,000 per year.

Model **Sahara Weber** earns \$100 per show for working as a round-card girl at New York's Felt Forum. "I could always go for a raise, but the pay is good for what we do," she says. "The

audience is like a bunch of big brothers. I feel like the host at a great big party. I wouldn't trade this job for the world. I'm not like the other girls who are grossed out by boxing. I love it. I like to see them punch each other out."

## I'll trade you Illinois Avenue and the B&O Railroad for Park Place

Here are where some of today's boxing barons are putting their cash:

**Evander Holyfield** is the co-owner of both a Subaru dealership and a Buick dealership in Atlanta.

**Sugar Ray Leonard's** millions are invested in State of Maryland municipal bonds, treasury bonds, CDs, and real estate.

**Gerry Cooney** is a part-owner of the Savannah Cardi-

nals, a Class A farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Thomas Hearns** has invested in a Southern California housing development, a venture that already has earned him \$3 million.

**Emanuel Steward**, Hearns' former manager, owns a Little Caesar's pizza franchise in Detroit.

**Could you refuse to buy a used car from this man?**



## \$5 million man

Although Dale Earnhardt's retainer of \$500,000 is way below the top Indy Car stars, the NASCAR champion lapped the competition in total earnings for 1990. Besides a personal-service contract with his main sponsor, Goodwrench, the popular driver also sells his T-shirts, hats, and jackets at all Goodwrench stores—in addition to three trailers full of



### Earnhardt's a multimillion-dollar business on wheels.

souvenirs at each race. In souvenir sales alone, "Ironhead" earned more than \$2 million. Throw in a deal with Chevrolet, personal appearances, and his cut of race monies and that good ol' boy from Kannapolis, N.C., reportedly raked in more than \$5 million.

## But you gotta admit—those are great caps

So you want to work in racing? At the top, a track manager can earn more than \$100,000 a year; a marketing director, \$60,000 to \$70,000 (plus commission); and a public relations director, \$24,000 to \$40,000. Of the event workers, a concession stand employee can expect to collect \$5 per hour; a clean-up truck driver, \$25 per weekend; and a security guard, \$7 per hour plus a box lunch. A highway patrolman working race day pulls down his or her usual salary and two tickets to the race—and as many caps, emblazoned with the sponsor's logo, as he or she can finagle out of the crews.

# AUTO RACING

## 1991's TOP FIVE

### CART

1	Mario Andretti	\$1,700,000
2	Danny Sullivan	1,600,000
3	Michael Andretti	1,500,000
4	Emerson Fittipaldi	1,200,000
	Al Unser Jr.	1,200,000

### NASCAR

1	Dale Earnhardt	\$500,000
	Rusty Wallace	500,000
	Darrell Waltrip	500,000
4	Bill Elliott	450,000
5	Kyle Petty	400,000
	Richard Petty	400,000
	Ricky Rudd	400,000
	Ken Schrader	400,000

### Formula One

1	Ayrton Senna	\$13,000,000
2	Nigel Mansell	11,000,000
3	Alain Prost	10,000,000
4	Gerhard Berger	8,000,000
5	Nelson Piquet	5,000,000

Figures are base salaries only and do not include race winnings, bonuses, personal sponsorships, or endorsement income.

## Top Sponsors in NASCAR

(1991 figures)

1. Goodwrench (Dale Earnhardt), \$3 million.
2. Budweiser (Geoff Bodine), \$3 million.
3. Tide (Ricky Rudd), \$3 million.
4. Kodiak (Ken Schrader), \$3 million.
5. Coors (Bill Elliott), \$3 million.
6. Miller (Rusty Wallace), \$3 million.
7. Maxwell House (Sterling Marlin), \$3 million.
8. Folgers (Mark Martin), \$3 million.
9. Pennzoil (Michael Waltrip), \$3 million.
10. STP (Richard Petty), \$2.5 million.

The financial information in this section was compiled from a variety of sources, including agents, league players associations, and published reports.

## Slicing up the purse pie

Here's how much top drivers in auto racing receive from team earnings, regardless of finish:

1. Dale Earnhardt—50%
2. Darrell Waltrip—50%
3. Rusty Wallace—50%
4. Mark Martin—50%
5. Geoff Bodine—50%
6. Kyle Petty—50%
7. Mario Andretti—40%
8. Michael Andretti—40%
9. Bobby Rahal—40%
10. Rick Mears—40%

## Old Golden Throat

Darrell Waltrip is recognized as NASCAR's best public speaker, but the personable veteran doesn't come cheap. If your business wants Darrell to spend the whole day schmoozing with your clientele, it's going to cost you \$10,000. Cheer up, though: A two-hour autograph session is only \$5,000.

## Roger Paycheck

Besides dominating Indy Car racing for the past 15 years, Roger Penske signs more paychecks than anyone in American motor sports. He employs 55



### Penske's learned that with success comes a payroll.

people at Penske Cars in Poole, England, and another 55 at Penske Racing in Reading, Pa.



## Emmo's empire

At one point in his Formula One career, when the Brazilian government was subsidizing his team, Emerson Fittipaldi was earning \$250,000 a month. Today, as one of the front-runners on the CART circuit, the two-time world driving champion is still making big bucks behind the wheel, but his off-track business also is booming. Emmo owns 41 Hugo-Boss clothing franchises in Brazil, 200,000 orange trees, a Mercedes-Benz dealership, and Fittipaldi Wheels—the top imported steering wheel in America. He also serves as a



**Fittipaldi banks big bucks on and off the track.**

consultant to Jeep Eagle and designs speed boats.

## Well, it's going pocketa-pocketa-pocketa when it should be going hmmm...

Know something about making an automobile run? There are alternatives to the GM boardroom or the Ford assembly line. A crack Indy Car team can expect to shell out upwards of \$200,000 for a team man-

ager, \$175,000 to the engineer, and \$50,000 (plus a percentage of winnings) to a first-rate mechanic. The rest of the crew, including over-the-wall workers, can earn \$35,000 (plus a percentage) per season.

## Yeah, but he made a killing reselling his law firm's letterhead stationery

When Formula One driver Nigel Mansell signed with Ferrari in 1988, one of his perks was a Ferrari F-40, which cost the company \$250,000 and has a street value of \$600,000. With a full garage and an eye toward making a fast buck, Mansell made a deal with a British buyer

for the car for \$750,000, only to have another prospect double the offer. The first buyer successfully sued, and collected the car for the agreed-upon price. The cost to Mansell? More than \$100,000 in attorneys' fees—and the displeasure of Ferrari officials.

## You lose, you pay

Al Unser Jr., who ran away with the 1990 CART/PPG Indy Car World Series, has some extra incentive to run up front. The second-generation star gets 50% of any winning purse, 40% of a second-place finish, and only 25% of anything else. Last year he scored six victories and earned \$1,511,833 for owner Rick Galles.

**Don't bug him—Unser's figuring his percentage.**



## Top Sponsored Indy Car Teams in 1991

1. **Penske Racing** (Rick Mears and Emerson Fittipaldi) \$13 million—Marlboro, Mobil 1, Bosch, Delco-Remy, J. Williams.

2. **Galles-Kraco Racing** (Al Unser Jr. and Bobby Rahal) \$10 million—Valvoline, STP, Toshiba, Molson, Ray-Chem, Delco-Remy.

3. **Newman-Haas Racing** (Mario and Michael Andretti)

\$9 million—Havoline, K mart, Eveready, Gillette.

4. **Ganassi Racing** (Eddie Cheever) \$8 million—Target, Scotch Audio & Video, Diet Pepsi, Ray-O-Vac, Black & Decker, Teledyne.

5. **Chaparral Racing** (John Andretti) \$5 million—Pennzoil.

6. **Patrick Racing** (Danny Sullivan) \$2 million—Miller Beer.



## Waxing wealthy

While Bobby Rahal (Honda, Lexus) and Emerson Fittipaldi (Mercedes-Benz) own a lot of cars, Mario Andretti makes

**Kraco pays a lot to use Rahal's car as a billboard.**

money by washing them. Mario operates three Hanna Car Washes in Pennsylvania.

## Sorry, Leonardo, but Mona Lisa has to be at Daytona next weekend

What's in a smile? Miss Winston, who poses with NASCAR race winners, earns \$135 per day plus expenses. With an average of 120 working days per

year, that's \$16,200. Most racing beauty queens, however, double or triple their earnings through local and regional modeling.

Oakland's Bash Brothers again will flex their muscles in the

# BASEBALL

By PAUL LADEWSKI and  
BOB KLAPISCH





*AL while the pumped-up Dodgers will overpower the NL*

# PREVIEW



# AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

## TORONTO BLUE JAYS

The move of Manny Lee to his natural shortstop position will soften the loss of defensive stopper Tony Fernandez. . . . The outfield of Joe Carter, Devon White, and Mark Whiten will begin to make people forget George Bell, Lloyd Moseby, and Jesse Barfield. . . . The war of words initiated by Bell will make for better reading than the Maple Leafs.

**Why they'll finish first:** The offseason additions of White (21 SBs in 443 at-bats), second baseman Roberto Alomar (.287, 24 SBs), and left fielder Carter (.232, 24 HRs, 115 RBIs) will do nothing to hurt the division's best talent base—and, more importantly, should give the Jays a much-needed attitude adjustment in the clubhouse.

**Strengths:** The Blue Jays finally entered a spring training with the right players in their proper positions. With no fewer than four switch hitters—Alomar, Lee, White, and Whiten—in the everyday lineup, not to mention Mookie Wilson off the bench, the attack is long on speed and flexibility. In free-agent signee Ken Dayley, 'pen pals Duane Ward and closer Tom Henke have a left-handed complement who is no stranger to late-season pressure.

**Weaknesses:** In the absence of Fred McGriff's 35 homers and 88 RBIs, the offense lacks a proven thumper from the left side. If the Blue Jays suddenly head south this summer, an unsettled starting rotation is likely to lead them there. After 18-game winner Dave Stieb and star-under-construction David Wells, there are two question marks in injury-plagued Jimmy Key and unproven Todd Stottlemyre.

**Player on the rise:** Whiten. The latest product off the organization's assembly line of young talent, this Bo clone runs, fields, and hits for power.

**Player on the decline:** Kelly Gruber. The third baseman remains one of the league's best all-around players, but he figures to be hurt most by McGriff's departure.

## BOSTON RED SOX

Provided that Jack Clark isn't under the spell of a Tony Gwynn voodoo doll, pencil in Jack in the Beantown for at least 30 homers and 90 RBIs. . . . Reliever Rob Murphy will replace Bob Stanley in the hearts of the Fenway faithful. . . . Three outs short of a perfect game, Roger Clemens will be ejected by the plate umpire for mumbling "sufferin' succotash" as he warms up between innings.

**Why they'll finish second:** For the same reason destiny's orphans usually finish second: They lack pitching depth, particularly without Mike Boddicker in the starting rotation.

**Strengths:** The addition of Clark (.266, 25 HRs, 62 RBIs) gives the Red Sox the legitimate cleanup hitter they haven't had since Jim Rice was in his prime. Clark's presence also should help Ellis Burks (.296, 21, 89), who no longer will have to sacrifice speed for power. The right-handed trio of Clark, Burks, and Tom Brunansky (.267, 15, 71) can drive opposing pitchers not only up the Wall, but over it, something that has been conspicuously absent around Fenway Park in recent years.

**Weaknesses:** Except for those days when Clemens (21-6, 1.93 ERA) is king of the hill, manager Joe Morgan has a cut-and-paste job on his hands. The Red Sox believe free-agent signees Danny Darwin (11-4, 2.21) and Matt Young (8-18, 3.51) will shoulder the loss of Boddicker's 17 victories and 228 innings pitched—except that Darwin does his best work in long relief, and Young hasn't posted as many as 12 wins and 200 innings pitched since 1985.

**Player on the rise:** Tim Lincecum. If he proves he can make the routine plays at short, then the Red Sox will have to find a permanent spot for him in the lineup.

**Player on the decline:** Jeff Reardon. Back problems that sidelined him for much of last season leave doubts as to whether he can be the workhorse of the bullpen.

## BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Cal Ripken will extend his iron man streak to 1,573 consecutive games played—and counting. . . . Ben McDonald will emerge as the club leader in wins, hotfoots, duck calls, and mustard sardines. . . . At least by Bud Blackian standards, designated hitter Dwight Evans will prove to be the real steal of the free-agent market at a mere \$1 million.

**Why they'll finish third:** The division darkhorse? Well, look no further. Even if the baby Birds appear to be at least another year away from a pennant push, the untapped potential of McDonald (8-5, 2.43 ERA), third baseman Leo Gomez, catcher Chris Hoiles, and first baseman David Segui makes for some ver-r-r-y inter-r-r-resting possibilities.

**Strengths:** Anchored by the brothers Ripken, Billy and Cal, the middle infield may have no peer defensively; among teams that play at home on grass surfaces, only Oak-

## 1991 PREDICTIONS

AL EAST	W	L
Toronto	90	72
Boston	87	75
Baltimore	84	78
New York	79	83
Cleveland	76	86
Detroit	73	89
Milwaukee	72	90
AL WEST	W	L
Oakland	93	69
Texas	89	73
Chicago	88	74
Kansas City	82	80
Seattle	78	84
California	73	89
Minnesota	70	92

**Read his lips: Rocket Roger will save his fire for his fastball.**

land committed fewer miscues. Mark Williamson and closer Gregg Olson, who combined for 38 saves, 14 wins, and a sparkling 2.31 ERA out of the bullpen, have but one failing: Neither is left-handed. The acquisition of Glenn Davis (.251, 22 HRs, 64 RBIs) from Houston will more than offset the losses of Mickey Tettleton and Ron Kittle.

**Weaknesses:** The O's' woes can be traced to a sharp decline in run production—and they had a flock of chances. A respectable .330 on-base percentage, which ranked sixth in the American League, was negated by a lack of clutch hitting, as only Boston left more runners on base.

**Player on the rise:** Billy Ripken. No





longer simply regarded as "Cal's brother," the slick-fielding second baseman is coming off a career year at the plate (.291).

**Player on the decline:** Cal Ripken. The defensive contributions by Billy's brother were grossly underappreciated last season, but diminishing returns on offense (.250, 21 HRs, 84 RBIs) indicate that his streak has begun to take its toll.

## NEW YORK YANKEES

Fearful of the Yankees' return to power, division rivals will petition Commissioner Fay Vincent for the reinstatement of Boss-in-hiding George Steinbrenner. . . . Don Mattingly's comeback of '91 will replace his aching back of a year ago. . . . Andy Hawkins will hurl the first no-hitter in new

Comiskey Park history—and lose 1-0 on a four-base error.

**Why they'll finish fourth:** Call it the American League East Theory of Upward Mobility. They laughed at Baltimore in '88, and the Orioles landed in second place the following season. They laughed at Detroit in '89, and the Tigers roared into third one year later. And they laughed at the Bronx Bummers in '90. Stay tuned.

**Strengths:** A healthy Mattingly would allow manager Stump Merrill to field a solid offensive lineup at a minimum of six positions. What's more, Mattingly (.256, 5 HRs, 42 RBIs), Kevin Maas (.252, 21, 41), and Matt Nokes (.248, 11, 40) possess the left-handed punch that can wake up the echoes at Yankee Stadium.

**Weaknesses:** Talk about five easy pieces: The proposed rotation of Pascual Perez (1-2, 1.29 ERA, 14 IP), Tim Leary (9-19, 4.11), Mike Witt (5-9, 4.00), Chuck Cary (6-12, 4.19), and Scott Sanderson (17-11, 3.88) combined for more wild pitches (49) than wins (38) at a cost of \$5.7 million.

**Player on the rise:** Hensley Meulens. Meet the next Pete Incaviglia—bat, glove, and all.

**Player on the decline:** Alvaro Espinoza. This much is readily apparent about the Yankees' shortstop: Even in comparison to Elvira's statistics, Alvaro's don't stack up.

## CLEVELAND INDIANS

Keith Hernandez will be seen more times with singer Carly Simon than at first base. . . . The last time the Tribe



### Check his batteries: The ageless Trammell just keeps going and . . .

was in a pennant race, Dwight D. Eisenhower was in office and Woodie Held was at shortstop. . . . Pitcher Al Nipper will request a tryout.

**Why they'll finish fifth:** Even in the unlikely event that Greg Swindell (12-9, 4.40 ERA) can do it again and John Farrell (4-5, 4.28) bounces back from an injury-torn season, the Indians lack the offensive balance needed to reach the next level.

**Strengths:** Some scouts predict fleet center fielder Alex Cole (.300, 40 SBs in 227 at-bats), freshman shortstop Mark Lewis, veteran second baseman Jerry Browne (.267, 6 HRs, 50 RBIs), and 1990 rookie of the year catcher Sandy Alomar Jr. (.290, 9, 66) will become the division's premier up-the-middle foursome.

**Weaknesses:** No American League club leans more heavily to one side of the plate; the Tribe was 14 games over .500 vs. southpaws and 22 games under the break-even mark against righthanders. Newcomer Eric King (12-4, 3.28) will fill the vacancy created by the loss of Bud Black, but with Swindell showing

signs of burnout at age 25 and Farrell on the shelf at least until the All-Star break, a once-promising rotation hangs at half-staff.

**Player on the rise:** Carlos Baerga. A hidden prize in the Joe Carter package, the third sacker produced 47 RBIs in 312 at-bats.

**Player on the decline:** Shortstop Felix Fermin. See Alvaro Espinoza, Yankees.

### DETROIT TIGERS

Several long-in-the-tooth Tigers will forego winter ball for the new Seniors League. . . . Rob Deer, Cecil Fielder, and Mickey Tettleton will combine for 90 home runs and 450 strikeouts. . . . In an attempt to establish a running game, club president Bo Schembechler will double as offensive coordinator.

**Why they'll finish sixth:** Unless Alan Trammell and Cecil Fielder come close to their combined total of 65 home runs and 221 RBIs of a year ago, it's the same old story in Tigertown: too many age spots throughout the roster, too little help from the farm system.

**Strengths:** By adding Deer (.209, 27, 64) and Tettleton (.233, 15, 51) to their lineup, the Tigers easily have the most power in the

division. The bullpen trio of Paul Gibson (5-4, 3.05 ERA), Jerry Don Gleaton (1-3, 2.94), and Mike Henneman (3.05, 22 saves) is unspectacular but effective.

**Weaknesses:** Jack Morris, Frank Tanana, Dan Petry, and Walt Terrell form the division's best rotation—for 1984. The Tigers are desperate for some younger blood, such as long-awaited Steve Searcy (2-7, 4.66), to step forward. Otherwise, can Milt Wilcox be far behind? Take away its frequent long-ball exploits in Tiger Stadium, and the lead-footed offense is left with few options.

**Player on the rise:** Travis Fryman. The club's shortstop of the future was so impressive at third as a rookie that even when manager Sparky Anderson gushed about him, there was reason to listen.

**Player on the decline:** Take your pick: Morris, Petry, Tanana, Terrell, Chet Lemon, Lloyd Moseby, Gary Ward . . .

### MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Coach Don Baylor will replace Tom Trebelhorn as skipper following a sleeping pill start. . . . Listed at 32, pitcher Teddy Higuera's real age will be revealed to be 43. . . . With the plug having been pulled on "Mr. Belvidere," free agent Bob Uecker will sign with the Brewers.

**Why they'll finish seventh:** The farm system hasn't kept pace with the gradual decline of old standbys Higuera (11-10, 3.76 ERA), Jim Gantner (.263), Paul Molitor (.285, 12 HRs, 45 RBIs), and Robin Yount (.247, 17, 77). When Baylor points out that most Brewers players know National Football League personnel better than that of whom they face on the field, it should be a hint to management that drastic changes are needed.

**Strengths:** The addition of free-agent Franklin Stubbs (.261, 23, 71) gives the Brewers no fewer than seven players who had at least 15 stolen bases last season.

**Weaknesses:** Held together by Higuera, Ron Robinson, relievers Chuck Crim and Dan Plesac (4.43, 24 saves), gauze, and tape, the broken-down mound corps finished a distant 10th in ERA. Much of the blame has to be placed on a leaky defense; the black-and-blue Brew Crew was guilty of a league-high 149 miscues, including 27 at shortstop and 34 at third base.

**Player on the rise:** Mark Lee. A rare lefthander with impeccable control, he possesses closer potential.

**Player on the decline:** Yount. No longer a 150-game player at age 35, he needs to make concessions to age. Says one scout, "His bat speed has slowed noticeably, and unless he adjusts his swing and is rested more often he won't be nearly the same hitter."



# AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

## OAKLAND ATHLETICS

The Slingin' A's, Esther Canseco and manager Tony La Russa, will not be seen together performing in "The Nutcracker." . . . On the heels of an MVP season, Rickey Henderson will join Jose Canseco and Darryl Strawberry in the \$4 million neighborhood. . . . They'll have to work up a sweat to do so, but the Athletics will become the first team since the Swingin' A's of Charles O. Finley to capture four successive AL West titles.

**Why they'll finish first:** Now that the hated D word—dynasty—no longer applies to them, the Athletics can go about their business as merely the American League's best team. Barring the trade of World Series nemeses Mickey Hatcher and Billy Hatcher to a division contender, they have nothing to fear in the regular season except injury and complacency.

**Strengths:** Pick your poison. Dave Stewart (22-11, 2.56 ERA) and Dennis Eckersley

(0.61, 48 saves), the majors' top winner and premier closer, respectively, over the last three seasons, show no signs of slowing. Ditto Rickey Henderson (.325, 28 HRs, 65 SBs), Canseco (.274, 37, 101 RBIs), and Mark McGwire (.235, 39, 108), the heart of an offense that will be more balanced at the left side with a full season from designated hitter Harold Baines (.284, 16, 65).

**Weaknesses:** With a staggering 44 more victories than any American League team since 1988, the Bay Area Bombers bring to mind the old hit song "Runaway." Yet, the Athletics twice were flatter than week-old beer against more battle-tested National League opponents in the Fall Classic, which suggests that they have had it a bit *too* easy during the regular season. With apologies to singer Del Shannon, they don't need yet another run-run-run-run-runaway, but a tough division rival to nip at their heels from start to finish.

**Player on the rise:** Reggie Harris. When the hard-throwing righthander limited opponents to a .176 batting average in his limited action (41.1 innings) last year, it was grounds for a closer look.

**Player on the decline:** Mike Moore. The

righthander slumped to 13-15 and a 4.65 ERA in '90. What's more alarming was his 84-to-73 walks/strikeouts ratio in 199 innings.

## TEXAS RANGERS

Before Nolan Ryan can announce his retirement, he will receive 200 gold watches from hopeful American League rivals. . . . General partner George W. Bush will make a plea for a kinder, gentler West Division. . . . The Rangers will boast three of the league's rising young stars in pitcher Steve Chiamprino, outfielder Juan Gonzalez, and third baseman Dean Palmer.

**Why they'll finish second:** Well, why not? The American League has a recent history of Cinderella wannabes, and the long-overdue Rangers possess the kind of talented youth and experience to fit the slipper.

**Strengths:** With Gonzalez and Palmer expected to join the veteran nucleus of Julio Franco (.296, 11 HRs, 69 RBIs), Pete Incaviglia (.233, 24, 85), Rafael Palmeiro (.319, 14, 89), and Ruben Sierra (.280, 16, 96), an infusion of youth may be what it takes to pump life into a disappointing offense that





## Bo gives good glove, but Kansas City needs more run production.

finished 10th in runs scored. The key to the Rangers' hopes will rest on the right wing of closer Jeff Russell (1-5, 4.26 ERA), whose return from arm problems could allow the starting threesome of Ryan (13-9, 3.44), Bobby Witt (17-10, 3.36), and Kevin Brown (12-10, 3.60) to produce as many as 50 wins between them.

**Weaknesses:** The list of Rangers catchers and shortstops in recent years belongs in a Who's That, not a Who's Who. With no immediate help down on the farm, manager Bobby Valentine again will be forced to mix and match at two crucial defensive positions.

**Player on the rise:** Gonzalez. There's some question as to whether he has the speed to play center field on a full-time basis, but few members of the organization doubt his potential to become a high-average power hitter.

**Player on the decline:** Steve Buechele. A 1-to-4 strikeout/at bats ratio in 1990 and the development of Palmer have put his starter's job at third in jeopardy.

## CHICAGO WHITE SOX

White Sox hitters will rave about the shortened distances of Comiskey Park II, but for the 16th time in the last 19 seasons none will hit as many as 30 home runs. . . . The average home game will be slightly longer than the Thirty Years' War. . . . A pregame batting exhibition by Michael Jordan will generate 123 media requests, including eight from foreign countries.

**Why they'll finish third:** Sorry, Cubbies, but that Subway Series will have to wait. While a rejuvenated Tim Lincecum gives the South Siders a reasonable facsimile of Rickey Henderson in the leadoff spot, their failure to land a gilt-edge starter in Bob Welch spoiled a chance to settle their nine-game difference with Oakland.

**Strengths:** Nothing can unravel a young pitching staff faster than shoddy defense, and much to the credit of departed GM Larry Himes, the White Sox have turned a question mark into an exclamation point in two short seasons. The expected move of Sammy Sosa (.233, 32 SBs) to center field,

coupled with slick-fielding shortstop Ozzie Guillen and the rock-hard backstop combination of Carlton Fisk and Ron Karkovice, will make a deep pitching staff even deeper.

**Weaknesses:** The company line is that the move to new Comiskey Park will enhance attitude and performance. And, yes, there will be more urinals in the clubhouse. However, any team built around pitching, defense, and the spray-hitting theories of batting instructor Walt Hriniak appears best suited for more spacious surroundings. Hold the wrecking ball.

**Player on the rise:** Jack McDowell. As manager Jeff Torborg says of the club's top winner of a year ago (14-9, 3.82 ERA), "We always knew he had the stuff, but we didn't know he had the competitive drive to be the staff leader."

**Player on the decline:** Scott Fletcher. While he still has value as a utilityman, a lack of speed and offensive punch has numbered his days as an everyday second baseman.

## KANSAS CITY ROYALS

**Bo knows switch hitting? Expect Jackson to take a few cuts from the left side, where the versatile one believes**



he can make more contact with only marginal loss of power. . . . If he doesn't win early and often with a \$30 million payroll, John Wathan will be first manager on the firing line. . . . Kirk Gibson will be given a high-and-tight close shave by Dennis Eckersley the first time they face each other.

**Why they'll finish fourth:** The high-priced additions of pitcher Mike Boddicker (17-8, 3.36 ERA) and outfielder/DH Gibson (.260, 8 HRs, 38 RBIs), coupled with the expected comebacks of pitchers Mark Davis (5.11 ERA, 6 saves), Mark Gubicza (4-7, 4.50), and Bret Saberhagen (5-9, 3.27), make the Royals the most likely challenger to the Athletics' throne. Yet, the Royals have too many questions regarding health and chemistry to justify their preseason hype.

**Strengths:** On paper, at least, the pitching staff is the only one in the division that can be mentioned in the same breath with Oakland's. Saberhagen, Gubicza, and Boddicker own a combined .559 career winning percentage, and Kevin Appier (12-8, 2.76) showed flashes of brilliance as a rookie. What's more, they will allow Tom Gordon (12-11, 3.73) to return to a setup role, where he excelled two seasons ago.

**Weaknesses:** Gibson will be a key player for an offense that was putty in the hands of righthanders a year ago. Only Cleveland and New York had worse records than the Royals' woeful 44-65 mark vs. righties, and it may be asking too much of a gimpy-kneed DH and 37-year-old George Brett (.329, 14, 87) to turn it around.

**Player on the rise:** Brian McRae. The young outfielder possesses the speed, bat control, and genes—his father, Montreal batting instructor Hal McRae, was a .290 lifetime hitter for 19 seasons—to make people forget Willie Wilson.

**Player on the decline:** Saberhagen. A second comeback from arm miseries certainly isn't out of the question (given his preference for odd-numbered years), but it figures to be a tougher climb for a 27-year-old who has shouldered 1,400-plus innings.

## SEATTLE MARINERS

Ken Griffey Sr. will be outhitting Ken Griffey Jr. at the All-Star break. . . . Ken Sr. will have his own candy bar—with discounts to senior citizens, of course. . . . Super saver Mike Schooler will suffer arm problems in June, prompting local headlines to read: "Schooler's Out for Summer."

**Why they'll finish fifth:** The Mariners are well-armed and dangerous, but they have too many holes throughout their lineup to make a quantum leap.



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**Strengths:** Ask the Athletics which club they fear most in the division, and a surprisingly large number of them will tell you the Mariners, for this reason: young pitching talent. The expected rotation of Eric Hanson (18-9, 3.24 ERA), Randy Johnson (14-11, 3.65), Brian Holman (11-11, 4.04), Scott Bankhead (0-2, 11.08), and rookie Rich DeLucia (1-2, 2.00)—none of whom is older than 27—has the makings to be the West's best for years to come.

**Weaknesses:** Memo to GM Woody Woodward: Offer the Kingdome and season tickets to Seahawks game in exchange for the use of Oakland Coliseum. The misplaced Mariners lack the necessary punch—no righthander went deep as many as a dozen times last season—to thrive in their ballpark.

**Player on the rise:** Jay Buhner. If he can avoid the injury bugaboo that has dogged him ever since his trade from New York, then he's a prime candidate to become the right-handed strongman the club desperately needs.

**Player on the decline:** Mike Jackson. Scouts once drooled over his hard stuff, but he never developed the control needed to reach the next level. Now arm problems have put his career on hold.

## CALIFORNIA ANGELS

Mostly as a result of better run support, Mark Langston will become the \$1.8 million pitcher they thought he would be a year ago. . . . General manager Mike Port will reject the Yankees' trade offer of pitcher Mike Witt for outfielder Dave Winfield. . . . The Angels will go to Disneyland, but not to Disney World.

**Why they'll finish sixth:** Even if old standbys Winfield and Lance Parrish have another productive year left, a dearth of new talent precludes a serious pennant push.

**Strengths:** The five-man rotation of Langston (10-17, 4.40 ERA), Chuck Finley (18-9, 2.40), Jim Abbott (10-14, 4.51), Kirk McCaskill (12-11, 3.25), and Bert Blyleven (8-7, 5.24) combined for 58 victories a year ago, and only Finley and McCaskill fulfilled expectations.

**Weaknesses:** A primary reason for the Angels' fall from grace was an unforgiving defense and the lack of a stolen-base threat. So they promptly traded . . . Devon White, a two-time Gold Glove winner and the club's leading base stealer last season? Outfielder Junior Felix (.263, 15 HRs, 65 RBIs) could significantly upgrade the attack if he decides to become more coachable, and management is optimistic second sacker Luis Sojo will tighten the infield defense. Yet as even

## The Importance of the Bullpen

Given that the Oakland Athletics bullpen pitched 417.1 innings, how many runs would it have allowed had it been just an average AL relief corps? The average AL bullpen gave up 4.06 runs every nine innings; thus, the A's relief corps would have yielded 188 runs had it been merely average. And how many more runs would that be compared to the number it actually gave up? The A's pen gave up only 122 runs—66 fewer than if it were average.

But the next question is, how many fewer victories would the A's have had if their bullpen had been only average? The answer: nine. The A's scored 733 runs and gave up 570 runs, which projects to 101 victories using the Pythagorean Theorem on page 72. Had they given up 66 more runs, for a total of 636, they would project out to only 92 victories. Since the A's were 103-59, it's not far-fetched to believe they would have been 94-68 with, say, the Twins bullpen.

	Bullpen		Runs		Actual	Diff.
	Allowed	Differ-	Projected	Record		
AL East		ential	Record	Record		
Red Sox . . .	+51		94-68	88-74	-6	
Blue Jays . .	-6		85-77	86-76	+1	
Tigers . . . .	-29		76-86	79-83	+3	
Indians . . .	+5		78-84	77-85	-1	
Orioles . . .	-10		75-86	76-85	+1	
Brewers . . .	+33		78-84	74-88	-4	
Yankees . . .	+6		68-94	67-95	-1	
AL West						
Athletics . .	-66		94-68	103-59	+9	
White Sox . .	-31		90-72	94-68	+4	
Rangers . . .	+2		83-79	83-79	0	
Angels . . . .	+4		80-82	80-82	0	
Mariners . .	+24		80-82	77-85	-3	
Royals . . . .	+17		77-84	75-86	-2	
Twins . . . .	0		74-88	74-88	0	
NL East						
Pirates . . .	-31		91-71	95-67	+4	
Mets . . . . .	-22		88-74	91-71	+3	
Expos . . . .	-29		81-81	85-77	+4	
Cubs . . . . .	+25		80-82	77-85	-3	
Phillies . . .	+22		80-82	77-85	-3	
Cardinals . .	+15		72-90	70-92	-2	
NL West						
Reds . . . . .	-46		85-77	91-71	+6	
Dodgers . . .	-6		85-77	86-76	+1	
Giants . . . .	+9		85-77	86-76	+1	
Astros . . . .	-19		73-89	75-87	+2	
Padres . . . .	+5		75-87	76-86	+1	
Braves . . . .	+76		73-89	65-97	-8	

—STATS Inc.

**Player on the rise:** Lee Stevens. He lacks the discipline necessary to avoid prolonged batting funks, but, at 23, his steady glove-work at first and long-ball potential make him one to watch. He also makes Wally Joyner (.268, 8, 41), who possesses some trade value, expendable.

**Player on the decline:** Blyleven. For the second time in the last three seasons, the long-in-the-tooth future Hall-of-Famer allowed more than 10 hits and five earned runs per nine innings.

## MINNESOTA TWINS

By season's end, the Twins roster will only faintly resemble that of the 1987 World Series champions. . . . Of the four young pitchers obtained in the Frank Viola trade, only Kevin Tapani will spend the entire season at the major league level. . . . Having failed in his rumored bid to become Vikings head coach, Lou Holtz will send out feelers for the Twins manager's job before checking out the North Stars and Timberwolves.

**Why they'll finish seventh:** Unless the veteran nucleus of Gary Gaetti (.229, 16 HRs, 85 RBIs), Kent Hrbek (.287, 22, 79), and Kirby Puckett (.298, 12, 80) goes middle-age crazy, the Twins' inexperience on the mound will keep them in the basement.

**Strengths:** The starting lineup has no glaring weakness and is adept in the field. The middle relief corps of Terry Leach (2-5, 3.20 ERA), Juan Berenguer (8-5, 3.41), and Gary Wayne (1-1, 4.19) is quality.

**Weaknesses:** The trade for reliever Steve Bedrosian will allow wild-card Rick Aguilera to move out of the bullpen, but the remainder of the proposed rotation (Allan Anderson, Scott Erickson, and Tapani) has a combined seven years of major league service. No longer built to suit the Metrodome—how can it be that the erstwhile Minny mites finished dead last in home runs in the AL last season?—the offense lacks the foot speed to compensate for the sudden lack of power.

**Player on the rise:** Shane Mack. At 27, he showed flashes (.326, 8, 44) of the stardom that many had predicted for him as a first-round draft pick with San Diego.

**Player on the decline:** Anderson. Since he posted a league-leading 2.45 ERA in 1988, his ERA and hit-per-inning ratio have increased steadily, an indication that finesse pitchers are prone to slip on the tightrope that is the Metrodome.

Port admits of White: "Toronto got a man of superior physical talent. If he ever gets it together with any consistency, then you're talking superstar quality."

American League expert PAUL LADEWSKI has correctly predicted the AL winners for the last three seasons. Paul contributed to our baseball ratings section in February.



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# NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

## CHICAGO CUBS

Cubs lead the NL in home runs and runs scored . . . Mark Grace captures the batting title . . . Andre Dawson wins the MVP award, thanks **INSIDE SPORTS** for the inspiration.

**Why they'll finish first:** Oh, how we love this offense now that George Bell has been added to the middle of the lineup. The Cubs were third in the East in offense in 1990, and that was *before* they added Bell's 21 home runs and 86 RBIs. Who in the division will be able to match a foursome of Bell, Ryne Sandberg (.306, 40 HRs, 100 RBIs), Dawson (.310, 27, 100), and Grace (.309, 9, 82)? Not the Pirates, even with Bobby Bonilla and Barry Bonds—and forget the Mets, too. If you love power, the Cubs will satisfy all your primal urges in '91.

**Strengths:** Still not convinced about the Cubs' muscle-flexers? Remember this: The lineup now includes three most valuable players (Sandberg, Dawson, and Bell) from the last six seasons. And we haven't even begun to talk about the pitching, much improved with the offseason signing of free-agents Danny Jackson and Dave Smith. Granted, Jackson was only 6-6 last year, but he's more than respectable when healthy. And Smith has converted 85% of his save opportunities since 1985. Greg Maddux (15-15, 3.46 ERA) is a proven commodity, and righty Mike Harkey (12-6, 3.26) has a good-looking future.

**Weaknesses:** Can Ron Santo jump out of the broadcast booth and still play third base? Luis Salazar is a quality utility player, spotted judiciously at third and the outfield, but he's not an everyday third baseman. After Jackson, Maddux, and Harkey, the Cubs need a decent season out of either Rick Sutcliffe (0-2, 5.91), Mike Bielecki (8-11, 4.93), or Shawn Boskie (5-6, 3.69).

**Player on the rise:** Harkey. Big, strong, and intimidating. A relief pitcher's mentality with a starter's stuff and stamina.

**Player on the decline:** We nominated Dawson last year, and look how foolish he made us look. So why not tab Andre again? He'll probably win the MVP.

## NEW YORK METS

Darryl Strawberry misses New York . . . Strawberry weeps upon his first visit to Shea Stadium . . . Strawberry, fighting tears, hits 45 homers for the Dodgers.

**Why they'll finish second:** Some intense shakin' and bakin' have given the Mets a new look, but unless they engineer a small

miracle it appears they no longer are the division's most feared team. Strawberry's exodus completes the metamorphosis—call it a self-destruction—that has been going on since 1986. The Mets of the '90s figure to be a good club, but not a breathtaking one. The acquisition of Hubie Brooks is the only thing keeping them out of third place.

**Strengths:** As in years past, pitching will be the heart and soul of pennant hopes. Even though the Mets were third in the East with a 3.43 ERA, their top three starters—Dwight Gooden (19-7, 3.83 ERA), Frank Viola (20-12, 2.67), and Dave Cone (14-10, 3.23) are unrivaled, combining for 53 wins and nearly a strikeout an inning. John Franco led the NL with 33 saves. The Strawberry-less offense still has a half-dozen proven players, led by Kevin McReynolds (.269, 24 HRs, 82 RBIs), Vince Coleman (.292, 77 SBs), and Brooks (.266, 20, 91).

**Weaknesses:** Who'll save the Mets with that ninth-inning, 450-foot homer now that Darryl has gone home to L.A.? The Mets have many talented hitters, but now this lineup lacks a superstar quotient. Mets management grossly underestimated Strawberry's importance to the rest of the order.

**Player on the rise:** Dave Magadan (.328, 6, 72). The Mets once called him a future NL batting champ. That prophecy is on the verge of being fulfilled.

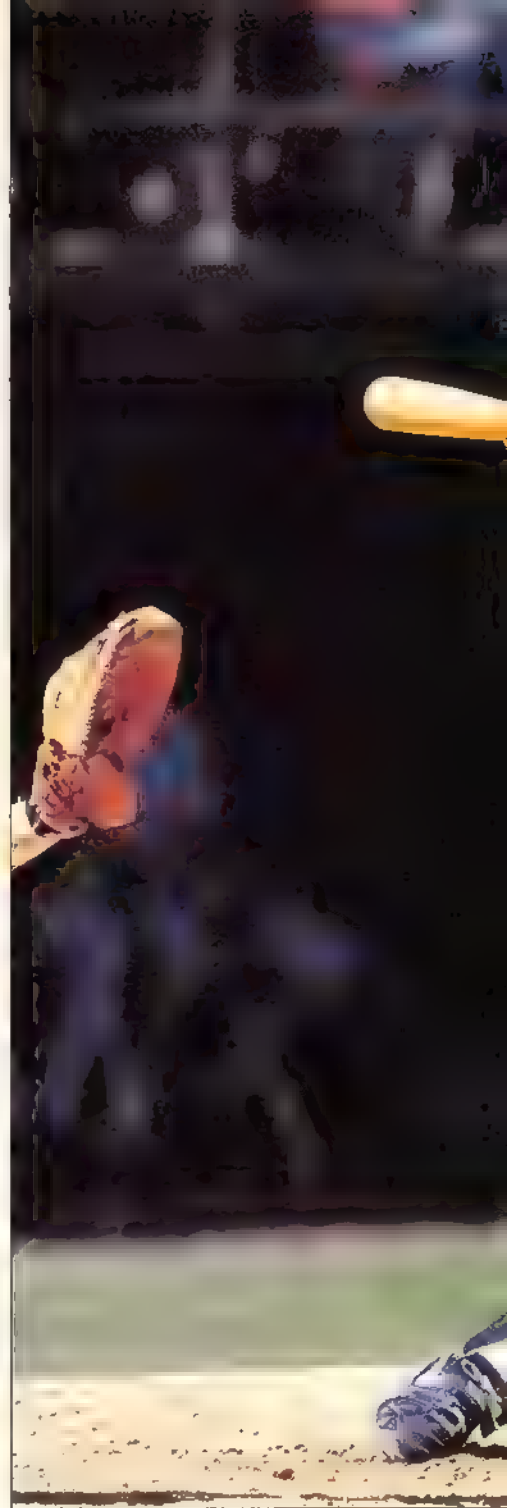
**Player on the decline:** Tommy Herr. He's smart and steady, but the Mets' veteran second baseman has lost some range.

## MONTREAL EXPOS

Chris Nabholz wins 15 games, 10 against the Mets . . . Delino DeShields is DeLightful: .300-plus and 50 stolen bases . . . Oil Can Boyd stays calm all season. Really.

**Why they'll finish third:** We were seriously considering picking the Expos to finish second—that's how impressively these neophytes played in 1990, when the baseball world expected the Expos to finish somewhere in Triple-A. Free-agent defections left the roster naked, yet Montreal led the NL in pitching and kept the Pirates and Mets sweating deep into September.

**Strengths:** Ah, youth: From DeShields (.289, 42 SBs) to Marquis Grissom (.257, 22 SBs) to Larry Walker (19 HRs, 21 SBs) to lefty Nabholz (6-2, 2.83)—who beat the Mets three times down the stretch—the Expos are loaded with young talent. Throw in proven veterans such as Andres Galarraga (.256, 20 HRs, 87 RBIs), Ivan Calderon (.273, 14, 74, and 32 SBs), and Tim Lincecum



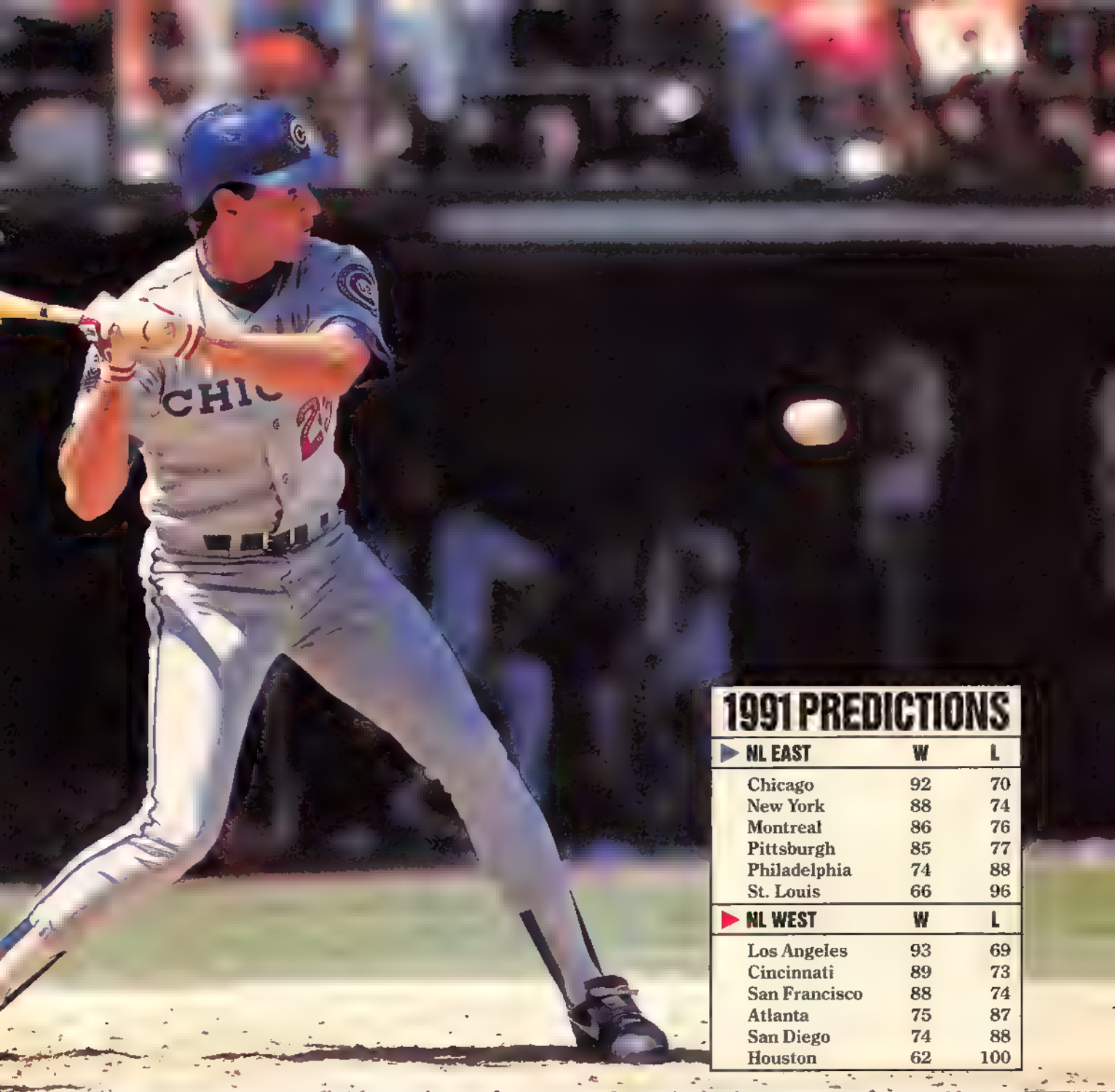
**The muscular Cubs, led by Ryno, have their eye on a pennant.**

(.296, 21, 98), and manager Buck Rodgers has a strong nucleus.

**Weaknesses:** Despite Galarraga and Wal-lach, the Expos truly need another proven power hitter. No one on the roster is capable of hitting in the 30-homer range. Also, the Expos are solid in the outfield and on the corners, but they're a little soft up the middle, excluding second baseman DeShields.

**Player on the rise:** Lefthander Brian Barnes, who was 13-7 with 213 strikeouts in





## 1991 PREDICTIONS

► NL EAST	W	L
Chicago	92	70
New York	88	74
Montreal	86	76
Pittsburgh	85	77
Philadelphia	74	88
St. Louis	66	96
► NL WEST	W	L
Los Angeles	93	69
Cincinnati	89	73
San Francisco	88	74
Atlanta	75	87
San Diego	74	88
Houston	62	100

201 innings at Triple-A last year, then pitched well in four starts with the Expos.

**Player on the decline:** Tim Burke (20 saves) had a fine season in '90, but he'll probably share the closer role with youngsters Scott Ruskin and Mel Rojas.

### PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Jose Lind finally wins a Gold Glove . . . Bobby Bonilla announces he's leaving Pittsburgh via free agency in '92 . . . Pirates payroll checks are cashed quickly all season.

**Why they'll finish fourth:** Maybe we're

being harsh, dropping the defending division champs all the way to No. 4. But no one repeats in the baseball world—and especially not the Bucs, who spent the winter fighting off mass defections to free agency. The Pirates were young and hungry and steamrolled to the title last September, but enthusiasm is no match for money.

**Strengths:** The Pirates still have a wonderful nucleus in MVP Bonds (.301, 33 HRs, 114 RBIs, 52 SBs), Bonilla (.280, 32, 120), and Andy Van Slyke (.284, 17, 77). And Cy Young winner Doug Drabek (22-6, 2.76 ERA) proved for the millionth time you don't have to throw hard to be a major league

success. And don't forget Jim Leyland, one of the game's best motivators.

**Weaknesses:** R.J. Reynolds is playing in Japan this year, and Sid Bream signed with the Braves as a free agent. The financially-strapped Pirates were barely able to keep lefty Zane Smith (12-9, 2.55), who was 6-2 down the stretch. Let's not even mention the bullpen, which somehow survives without a bona fide closer.

**Player on the rise:** Third baseman Jeff Kung, who hit 14 home runs in his second year.

**Player on the decline:** Bob Walk. Tough pick, since Walk was 7-5 last season, but the



## **Doc's still the ace, but summer shuffles mean a new deal in N.Y.**

Bucs don't have many aging players, so our choices were limited. Sorry, Bob.

### **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

**Phillies lead the league in hitting . . .  
Phillies have no 20-game winners . . .  
No 15-game winners, either.**

**Why they'll finish fifth:** The Phillies have enough on-paper talent to do better, yet they were the division's most enigmatic team in 1990. Until they convert their theoretical artillery—Lenny Dykstra's charisma, Von Hayes' bat speed, Dale Murphy's power—into at least .500 baseball, it's hard to envision the Phils going chest-to-chest with the division's leaders.

**Strengths:** This is a surprisingly muscular lineup. Dykstra (.325, 9 HRs, 60 RBIs, 33 SBs) flirted with .400 for the first half of last summer, and the rest of the lineup features Murphy (.245, 24, 83), who suddenly looks interested in life again, as well as Von Hayes (.261, 17, 73), Charlie Hayes (.258, 10, 57), and John Kruk (.291, 7, 67). And the Phillies play pretty good defense, too; they were second in the division—behind the Expos—with a .981 fielding percentage.

**Weaknesses:** Oh, what the Phillies would

pay for a legitimate big-time starter. Their current ace is Pat Combs (10-10, 4.07 ERA), the only Phillies pitcher to win in double figures in '90. Roger McDowell is the last line of defense in the bullpen, and while his sinker is still nasty, McDowell also can be inconsistent. He saved 22 games, but the league hit .286 against him.

**Player on the rise:** Darren Daulton, a solid-hitting catcher (.268, 12, 57) who also has earned a reputation as an enforcer.

**Player on the decline:** Dickie Thon, although we admit it's hard to find 32-year-old shortstops who hit .255 and manage 48 RBIs a year.

### **ST. LOUIS CARDINALS**

**Todd Worrell returns from elbow surgery, rediscovers his 90-mph fastball . . . St. Louis mired in the cellar . . . Cards consider finishing season "a moral victory."**

**Why they'll finish sixth:** Did Joe Torre really understand what he was getting into when he agreed to manage the Cards? Obviously, The White Rat knew what was coming when he jumped off this floundering ship last summer. This could be the worst team Torre has managed since the 1979 Mets. A free-agent exodus has stripped the Cards of any chance for even a so-so season.

Ozzie Smith, Jose Oquendo, and Joe Magrane are the only remnants from the 1987 pennant winners.

**Strengths:** Ozzie and Oquendo still comprise a fluid double-play combo. Oquendo committed only three errors in 681 chances, and Ozzie, although a step slower, is still the most graceful shortstop of our era. Pedro Guerrero (.281, 13 HRs, 80 RBIs) is a proven run producer, and the rotation still deserves respect: Joe Magrane (10-17, 3.59 ERA), Jose DeLeon (7-19, 4.43), Bryn Smith (9-8, 4.27), and Bob Tewksbury (10-9, 3.47).

**Weaknesses:** Where do we start? Vince Coleman, Terry Pendleton, and Willie McGee are gone. That means Felix Jose (.271) and rookies such as Ray Lankford (.286) and Bernard Gilkey (.297)—all three combined for 275 at-bats last season in St. Louis—must suddenly carry the Cards in '91. Catcher Todd Zeile (.244, 15, 57) is an interesting young talent, but he's out of position at third base. The bullpen is an enormous question mark after Lee Smith (3-4, 2.10, 27 saves).

**Player on the rise:** Lankford, a pleasing center fielder who hits left-handed and runs well. The Cards pray Lankford can someday make them forget about McGee.

**Player on the decline:** Ozzie Smith. Age overtakes us all, even infield gods.



## Coming Through in the Clutch

The Montreal Expos, who came up 797 times last season with two outs and runners in scoring position, batted a major-league low .202 and drove in only 174 runs in those situations. Had they made a National League-average number of plate appearances and scored an NL average number of runs, how many more runs would manager Buck Rodgers have had to work with?

The average NL team scored 201 runs in 784 plate appearances in this situation. The Expos ratio of runs/plate appearance was 174-to-797 (.218). If the Expos had 784 plate appearances (the NL average), they would have scored 171 runs (.218 × 784), a whopping 30 runs below average.

In 1990 the Expos scored 662 runs and yielded 598, a projected victory total of 89 using the Pythagorean Theorem on page 72. If they had scored 30 more runs (692), they would project to 93 victories, a difference of four. Given that the Expos won 85 ball games, and would have won four more with average run-producing ability in the clutch, they should have been 89-73. In a tight race, who knows what could have happened?

	Runs Scored	Above/ Below	Record w/ Average		
	vs.	Clutch	Actual		
AL East	Average	Hitting	Record		Diff.
Red Sox ...	+21	85-77	88-74		+3
Blue Jays	+17	84-78	86-76		+2
Tigers ....	+8	78-84	79-83		+1
Indians ...	+34	73-89	77-85		+4
Orioles ...	-12	77-84	76-85		-1
Brewers ..	-9	75-87	74-88		-1
Yankees ..	-18	69-93	67-95		-2

AL West				
Athletics ..	-21	105-57	103-59	-2
White Sox	+10	93-69	94-68	+1
Rangers ..	-10	84-78	83-79	-1
Angels ....	+11	79-83	80-82	+1
Mariners ..	-13	79-83	77-85	-2
Royals . . .	-5	76-85	75-86	-1
Twins ....	-12	75-87	74-88	-1

NL East				
Pirates ...	+10	94-68	95-67	+1
Mets .....	+36	87-75	91-71	+4
Expos ....	-30	89-73	85-77	-4
Cubs .....	+9	76-86	77-85	+1
Phillies ...	-4	78-84	77-85	-1
Cardinals	-29	74-88	70-92	-4

NL West				
Reds .....	- 5	92-70	91-71	- 1
Dodgers ..	+27	83-79	86-76	+ 3
Giants ....	- 1	85-77	85-77	0
Astros ....	-23	78-84	75-87	- 3
Padres ....	+19	73-89	75-87	+ 2
Braves ....	8	66-96	65-97	- 1

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# NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

## LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Orel Hershiser wins 15 games with a rebuilt right shoulder . . . Darryl Strawberry wins 15 with his bat . . . Tommy Lasorda gets tired of hugging them both.

**Why they'll finish first:** The Dodgers remind us of the skinny kid who, tired of

being picked on, goes home for the summer, pumps iron, and returns to school looking like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Talk about big-bicep offense: Signing free agents Darryl Strawberry and Brett Butler gives L.A. its meanest attack since the team played in

**Here's something the hitters don't see: Martinez's heater.**

Brooklyn. No one in the division will contain this lineup for long.

**Strengths:** Los Angeles was third in the league in runs scored even *before* adding Strawberry's 37 homers and 108 RBIs. And just so the Dodgers don't get muscle-bound, they've got Butler's 51 stolen bases to keep them light and limber. That should offset the loss of Hubie Brooks. Besides, there's plenty of run production left over: Kal Daniels (.296, 27 HRs, 94 RBIs) and Eddie Murray (.330, 26, 95) give the Dodgers an awesome middle of the order, at least as dangerous as the Cubs'.

**Weaknesses:** So much hinges on Hershiser's return after surgery. If he's fine the Dodgers are a can't-miss in the West. But their chances are iffy if Hershiser's not healthy, even if Ramon Martinez (20-6, 2.92 ERA) keeps popping that fastball. Trading for veteran Bob Ojeda (7-6, 3.66) should help. The Dodgers infield is cloudy: Rookie Jose Offerman could inherit shortstop, no one's claimed third base yet, and Juan Samuel (126 K's in 492 at-bats) threatens to return at second base.

**Player on the rise:** Lenny Harris. Platooning with Mike Sharperson at third, the improving Harris hit .304 and swiped 15 bases.

**Player on the decline:** Samuel. Only four years ago Samuel hit .272 with 28 homers and 100 RBIs. These days, he strikes out almost once in every three at-bats.

## CINCINNATI REDS

Randy Myers finally throws the 100-mph fastball . . . Chris Hammond—15-1 at AAA Nashville last season—wins fifth rotation spot . . . Eric Davis begins and ends the season with the same thought: Free agency in '92.

**Why they'll finish second:** We have a permanent soft spot for the Goliath-slayers—the memory of seeing the A's humbled in the World Series won't soon evaporate—and for that reason alone we were tempted to award Lou Piniella first place in '91. But the Reds still lack the firepower to match the Dodgers—and besides, we told you no one repeats.

**Strengths:** Terrific pitching—the best in the West in 1990 with a 3.39 ERA—led by Jose Rijo (14-8, 2.70 ERA), who's quickly evolving into one of the league's finest righthanders. He throws hard and has an equally impressive slider. Danny Jackson is gone, but Tom Browning (15-9, 3.80) and Jack Armstrong (12-9, 3.42) round out what's still a fine rotation. The world is well acquainted with the Nasty Boys—Myers, Rob Dibble, and Norm Charlton—and while the batting order doesn't have any one dominant player, Eric Davis (.260, 24 HRs,







## Behind Will the Thrill, the Giants should keep it tight till the end.

86 RBIs) is the leader of an offense that topped the league with a .265 average. Have we forgotten defense? The Reds tied the Giants for the NL lead with a .983 fielding percentage.

**Weaknesses:** The Reds could use a fifth starter, but we'll be honest: There are no apparent holes in this roster. This was a fine, balanced club that played superbly all year and even better than that in October. But there is one nagging doubt: Cincinnati played such seamless baseball last season that intuition says they'll bleed in '91.

**Player on the rise:** Rijo. Once upon a time, Rijo was a thoughtless young Yankee, airing out his fastball 100 times a game. His transformation (thanks in large part to Juan Marichal, his father-in-law) into a thinking pitcher who still throws hard has been admirable.

**Player on the decline:** Bill Doran, although the Reds paid \$7.4 million to have him age gracefully.

## SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Roger Craig teaches Dave Righetti the split-fingered fastball . . . Giants pitchers develop aim problems . . . Roger Craig challenges Lou Piniella to a name-calling contest.

**Why they'll finish third:** Here we were, all ready to call the Giants old and tired when suddenly they pump hyperdollars into the free-agent pool and presto: San Francisco has Dave Righetti, Willie McGee, and Bud Black and is ready to challenge L.A. The Giants will fall short but should make terrific theater in September.

**Strengths:** The offense looks better than ever now that defending batting champ McGee (.335, 28 SBs) joins Will Clark (.295, 19 HRs, 95 RBIs), Kevin Mitchell (.290, 35, 93), and Matt Williams (.277, 33, and a league-best 122 RBIs.) The bullpen looks resurrected, too. Righetti (36 saves) made the Giants feel secure enough to trade Steve Bedrosian. Rags will get help from Jeff Brantley (19 saves).

**Weaknesses:** Bud Black (13-11, 3.57 ERA with the Indians and Blue Jays) will have to help a rotation that's so-so. The Giants are leaning heavily on Scott Garrelts (12-11, 4.15) to be better than a .500 pitcher. John Burkett (14-7, 3.79) got our attention as a rookie, but we're interested in his sophomore numbers. Don Robinson and Rick Reuschel are both older and creakier.

**Player on the rise:** Steve Decker. The Giants like this young catcher so much they're starting him in front of Gary Carter. **Player on the decline:** Terry Kennedy. If Decker succeeds, Kennedy has no choice but to make room.

## ATLANTA BRAVES

Braves make a run at first place in August . . . At least one starting pitcher will have a .500 season . . . Jane Fonda throws out first ball on Opening Day.

**Why they'll finish fourth:** The Braves are chic nowadays. Some underground whispers even have them as high as third. We're not that radical, but we like Terry Pendleton (.230, 6 HRs, 58 RBIs) and Sid Bream, who give the infield instant credibility to go with an outfield that did its share of offensive damage in '90. Braves for fourth place? Why not? Haven't they suffered enough?

**Strengths:** Pendleton, a Gold Glove winner, will give the Braves blanket coverage at third base and will produce runs. Bream (.270, 15, 67) is a steal; he's one of the most underrated left-handed hitters in the game. Ron Gant hit 32 home runs with a .303 average, and rookie of the year Dave Justice pounded 28 taters in only 439 at-bats. This lineup will score runs.

**Weaknesses:** The Braves have only one established pitcher—John Smoltz (14-11, 3.85 ERA). As for the rest of the young guns—well, we're still waiting. Tom Glavine, Steve Avery, and Pete Smith were only 18-29 (Avery alone accounted for 11 of those losses). The staff is so young the Braves were forced to resign veteran Charlie Leibrandt (9-11, 3.16) to stabilize it. There's no savior in the bullpen, either—no reliever reached double figures last year in saves.

**Player on the rise:** Justice. One homer in every 16 at-bats. That's 34 dingers in a 550 at-bat season. Very nice.

**Player on the decline:** Lonnie Smith. The Braves spent the winter trying to trade the 35-year-old Smith, despite his .305 average.

## SAN DIEGO PADRES

Tony Gwynn wins his fourth batting title . . . Fred McGriff pounds 41 home runs . . . Craig Lefferts pulls a hamstring sprinting to the mound.

**Why they'll finish fifth:** It's hard to trust a team that's completely shed its skin. The Padres still haven't come close to fulfilling expectations, so new GM Joe McIlvaine arrived late last season and commenced a stunning restructuring, firing a total of 30 front-office execs, scouts, and PR people. What's left? No one knows, but the Padres seem to be in too much disarray to mount much of a threat in the West.

**Strengths:** A midwinter blockbuster trade with the Blue Jays landed first baseman McGriff (.300, 35 HRs, 88 RBIs), one of the game's premier left-handed home run threats. The Padres also acquired Gold

## The Pythagorean Theorem: A Square Deal

The object of baseball is to score more runs than the other guy. To do that you need an offense that produces runs and a defense (pitching and fielding) that prevents them. Simple, right? In fact, there's an easy equation that can accurately predict a team's record just by knowing how many runs it scored and how many runs it gave up. Runs scored squared, divided by runs scored squared plus runs allowed squared. Developed by Bill James, it's called the "Pythagorean Theorem" for short. Here's an example:

One NL team last year scored 733 runs and gave up 619 runs. Given those numbers, that team should have secured a .586 winning percentage:

$$\frac{(733 \times 733)}{(733 \times 733) + (619 \times 619)} = .586$$

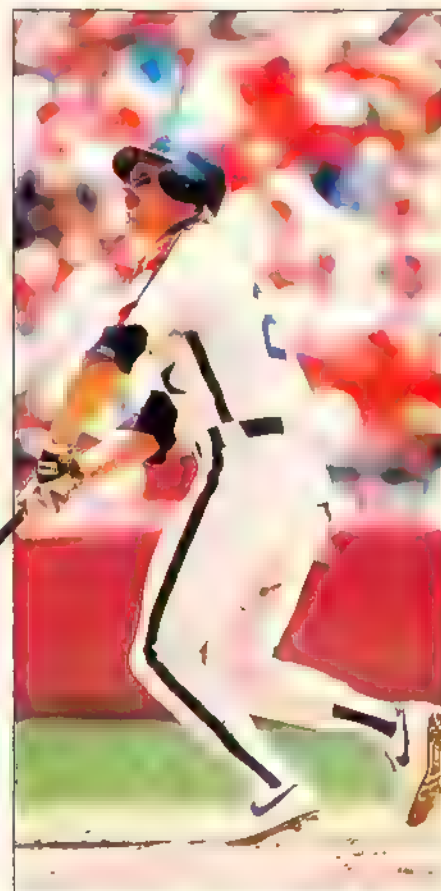
Over 162 games, that's a 95-67 record. The team? The Pittsburgh Pirates. Their actual record? 95-67. Any differential greater than +3 or -3 indicates overachievement or underachievement.

	Runs	Opp.	Projected Record	Actual Record	Diff.
<b>AL East</b>					
Red Sox	699	664	85-77	88-74	+3
Blue Jays	767	661	93-69	86-76	-7
Tigers	750	754	81-81	79-83	-2
Indians	732	737	80-82	77-85	-3
Orioles	669	698	78-84	76-85	-1 1/2
Brewers	732	760	78-84	74-88	-4
Yankees	603	749	64-98	67-95	+3
<b>AL West</b>					
Athletics	733	570	101-61	103-59	+2
White Sox	682	633	87-75	94-68	+7
Rangers	676	696	79-83	83-79	+4
Angels	690	706	79-83	80-82	+1
Mariners	640	680	76-86	77-85	+1
Royals	707	709	81-81	75-86	-5 1/2
Twins	666	729	74-88	74-88	0
<b>NL East</b>					
Pirates	733	619	95-67	95-67	0
Mets	775	613	100-62	91-71	-9
Expos	662	598	89-73	86-77	-4
Cubs	690	774	72-90	77-85	+5
Phillies	646	729	71-91	77-85	+6
Cardinals	599	698	69-93	70-92	+1
<b>NL West</b>					
Reds	693	597	93-69	91-71	-2
Dodgers	728	685	86-76	86-76	0
Giants	719	710	82-70	85-77	+3
Astros	573	656	70-92	75-87	+5
Padres	673	673	81-81	75-87	-6
Braves	682	821	66-96	65-97	-1

—STATS Inc

**Why they'll finish sixth:** We don't want to be mean—honest—but there's no gentle way to say this: The Astros will be baseball's worst team in '91. No pitching, no hitting, no free-agent help, no real prospects . . . and no point in going on.

**Strengths:** Well . . . OK . . . Hmmm . . . Just a second . . . Starters, no . . . Bullpen, forget it



**Davis has gone to the O's, and Houston has gone to the dogs.**

... Power? Defense? Speed? ... Let's move on.

**Weaknesses:** The pitching staff is starting to rust. Aces Mike Scott and Jim Deshaies combined for a 16-25 record last season, and Jim Clancy was 2-8. Mark Portugal (11-10, 3.62 ERA) throws hard, but he's hardly an heir to Scott. Two-thirds of what the Astros hoped was their outfield of the future, Eric Anthony and Gerald Young, hit under .200. The three best relievers of a year ago—Dave Smith, Larry Andersen, and Juan Agosto—all are gone.

**Player on the rise:** We like Yelding, who can hurt you once he's on base (64 SBs).

**Player on the decline:** Scott (9-13, 3.81). Too many innings and too many splitters are a tough mix. ■

*We think you'll agree that BOB KLAPISCH still has a lot of strong innings left in him. Bob profiled Barry Bonds, the 1990 National League most valuable player, in March.*

Glover Tony Fernandez, so say goodbye to Garry Templeton, who tied for the league lead with 26 errors at shortstop last season. The Padres still have a hitting machine in Gwynn (.309) and an adequate pitching staff led by Ed Whitson (14-9, 2.60 ERA). Benito Santiago and his nuclear-powered arm threw out 23 of 62 would-be base-stealers. **Weaknesses:** Did we say pitching was a strength? We'd like to see better numbers from Bruce Hurst (11-9, 3.14), and the jury is still out on Andy Benes (10-11, 3.60), who throws hard but remains a .500 pitcher. There are no immediate candidates at third base, and left field seems vacant, too.

**Player on the rise:** Shawn Abner (.245, 1, 15). This once-heralded prospect has been slow to develop, but the departure of Joe Carter should guarantee him the at-bats he needs to finally take off.

**Player on the decline:** Hurst. Expected to be the staff's salvation after the Padres lured him away from Boston in '89, Hurst has been steady but hardly spectacular.

## HOUSTON ASTROS

**Astros finish last in the West . . . Eric Yelding finishes second in NL steals . . . Management offers the Astros' 40-man roster to Texas for Nolan Ryan.**



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# THE STATE OF THE GAME

*Commissioner Fay Vincent sees baseball expanding internationally, but also sees issues to address right here at home*

By CLAIRE SMITH

**T**HE NUMBERS WERE FLAT. The survey tracking major league baseball's affirmative action program, released every December, showed precious little progress from 1989 to 1990. No one knew that better than Fay Vincent, and it greatly disturbed the commissioner of baseball.

Vincent had promised to carry out the unfinished agenda of the late Bart Giamatti, and it had been more than a year since his close friend and predecessor had died of a heart attack. Affirmative action was one of the issues Giamatti held dear. Vincent, Giamatti's hand-picked deputy, also had looked at the issue as one baseball was morally obligated to address.

But there they were: Numbers that showed nothing of the stated intent of the deputy-turned-commissioner. And, Vincent admitted, baseball's goal of assuring equal opportunity at all levels had been lost amid the crises that have tracked him like so many incoming missiles since day one of his administration. Starting with the forced transition on the run, Vincent has had to deal with an earthquake-marred '89 World Series, labor strife, collusion, and the investigation and subsequent disciplining of New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner.

"The thing that is so difficult, and definitely never on the agenda," Vincent says, "is trouble. It's the constant disruption that cuts across everything. I have no way to evaluate how much of my time will get caught up in that, but it's more than I would ever have imagined."

Still, baseball's eighth commissioner refuses to offer excuses. He has an agenda, one derived not only from Giamatti's, but

also from his own view about how major league baseball as a sport and an entertainment industry should face the final decade of one century and prepare to enter another as the national pastime. Vincent, the former president and CEO of Columbia Pictures, uses the movie industry as a vivid illustration—as well as a contrast—to show what baseball is and is not.

"In the entertainment business," he says, "you were trying to develop new products—new films, new television—constantly trying to meet an adjusting public taste. The essence of wisdom in baseball is not to change what has been working and so productive and so wonderful. And I think that I am wise enough to know that if you don't know all there is to know about something, that you approach it with considerable care and very great skepticism in terms of any tinkering."

Still, constant care and commitment is required to keep the game economically strong. That's something Vincent, a former high-ranking executive with Coca-Cola, also appreciates and understands.

"My friend Donald Keough, the president of Coca-Cola, used to say that the job of someone in his position was to live with a nervous itch," Vincent says. "The more you told him Coca-Cola was doing well, the more nervous he got. So I think it would be a terrible mistake not to worry about something as precious as baseball. If you sit here, you worry a lot."

And plot. And plan. The 52-year-old Vincent has done all of the above, in several major areas.

"First, we have got to do something significant in the labor relations," he says. "We've got to get into a more stable, sophisticated relationship with the union. We just can't have the turmoil that besets this game every three or four years. Second, and very

closely related, we have to protect the viability of the smaller markets."

In mid-December, what had started as a germ of an idea born out of Vincent's frustration during a bitter 32-day lockout last spring became a reality when he appointed a joint labor-management economic study commission. The first of its kind in professional sports, the commission employs not only labor and management officials from within the game, but a majority of independent experts, including the former chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, Paul Volcker. Vincent envisions Volcker and the other impartial members of the commission bringing an objective, learned perspective to the emotional issues that have resulted in labor strife for the better part of two decades.

"I don't think it can lose," says Vincent. "Suppose all that we do is look at baseline numbers that everybody accepts as being the numbers. That's something we don't have today. How successful can it be? I think it has a potential of making a huge contribution to the future of baseball."

Chuck O'Connor, baseball's chief negotiator during the lockout, agrees. "We would like to think that when it is done, it will provide to the parties something they had not had: a common economic language," says O'Connor. "That would eliminate some of the pathology that attaches to baseball economics on both sides. If [it does] that, [it] will have provided both parties going into the next round of bargaining with a big leg up on what they had in the past."

As for the players and their union representatives, all may not agree with the commissioner on the various issues. However, many welcome Vincent's participation in the process nonetheless. That appreciation was first apparent when Vincent became the first commissioner to officially take a seat at the bargaining table after talks on a new collective bargaining agreement stalled last winter. "He's different in that he made no pretense that he's a neutral third party," says Donald Fehr, the executive director and general counsel of the Major League Baseball Players Association. "I cannot emphasize often enough how refreshing that was."

**T**HE THAW IN THE LABOR COLD war has resulted in joint ventures above and beyond the study commission. In yet another first for baseball, Fehr has been invited to sit on a management panel headed by Steve Greenberg, the deputy commissioner. Starting this year, that committee will seek to help young







## The quake-scarred '89 Series hit the rookie right off the bat.

players adjust to the economic and social pressures of the major leagues.

Vincent feels that a mutual understanding of such issues cannot help but spill over into the still-volatile financial arguments. And those issues, he insists, must be dealt with for the sake of what he believes to be the game's endangered smaller markets. "Look around," Vincent says. "Seattle gained attendance but has very little revenue. Pittsburgh won the National League East division but is losing money."

Yes, the game is in the midst of an apparent box-office boom. And, yes, teams in bigger markets—such as the Mets, Yankees, Dodgers, Cubs, and Red Sox—make a fortune. But, says Vincent, that is precisely why industry statistics are so misleading. "Those clubs constitute about 75% of the industry profit," he says. "My guess is that 10 teams are losing money, based on my own knowledge of the numbers and what people have been telling me." It is an area that may appear to concern only management, but one where Vincent especially emphasizes partnership with the players and a need for a common goal of overall solvency.

Dollars and cents are not Vincent's only concerns. There is a softer agenda within the game concerning social issues such as ambiance, the game's attitude toward fans, the way it presents itself to the public. That agenda includes affirmative action.

Long before the annual survey of affirmative action was released, Vincent suspected the numbers would not meet his standards. "I think we have made some progress, [but]

it's been in fits and starts," said Vincent. "It's a very tough issue, affirmative action, but we have got to deal with it."

To that end, on September 24, 1990, Vincent informed ownership of a new initiative. A candidate tracking system, first launched by Giamatti but overlooked after his death, was reinstituted. The documents, to be monitored by the consulting firm of Alexander and Associates of Washington, D.C., have been revised, and their purpose,

## In head-to-head battle, Vincent showed The Boss who's boss.



## Many of Bart Giamatti's ideas influenced Vincent's agenda.

Vincent told ownership, is to "focus on the top organizational levels in the clubs, on and off the field, where progress has been slowest and the potential benefits in terms of visibility and impact are the greatest."

Vincent also has commissioned a field study by students from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management. That study will focus not only on hiring practices of





each club, but also on its community relations with minority groups in areas from marketing to fan demographics.

**D**EMOGRAPHICS OF ANOTHER sort also fascinate Vincent. international demographics. Even before Giamatti succeeded Peter Ueberroth in April 1989, Vincent, knowing he would be Giamatti's deputy, started thinking in terms of a baseball foreign policy. "There was no international strategy," he says. "Nobody knew anything about what we were trying to do internationally. So I asked Peter if I could look at it, and he said, 'Go ahead.'"

Vincent immediately started seeking a more sophisticated path for baseball outside the borders of North America, one he deems necessary even as the world prepares to welcome the game as a medal sport in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. By 1989 he, as commissioner, had launched Major League Baseball International Partnership. That joint venture linked baseball with NBC International and a British marketing firm, Pascoe Nally Inc.; together, they license merchandise and logos, publish programs, and sponsor amateur baseball, as well as televise and otherwise develop pro baseball abroad.

"I think it's good for baseball in general," says Vincent. "Two, it's great for major league baseball, because we teach people everywhere about our game. That opens up markets for our hats and our television broadcasts."

By the end of 1990, baseball was supporting a fledgling league in Australia, devising even more marketing and licensing ventures in Japan, and plotting strategies to introduce cricket-playing Britons to pitching mounds and diamond-shaped playing fields, as well as extending its reach to the Pacific rim and the continent of Europe. It's daunting, to be sure. But Vincent says his experience and instincts tell him it's worth it.

"I remember [when] the videocassette didn't exist, and we were starting a little business," he says, recalling his days at Columbia. "We thought maybe Europe and only Europe, but as it turned out it changed the entertainment culture of the world. But in 1978 we had no idea what we were doing. We just knew it might work. So, I think if we in baseball spend a long time doing something that is basically good, it will work."

"It's not a straight line; every country won't be the same. But over 10 or 15 years, baseball will come to be a significant activity internationally in every sense." ■

*New York-based sports journalist CLAIRE SMITH follows baseball's progress on and off the field with equal fervor. This is Claire's first piece for INSIDE SPORTS.*

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# NUMBERS

## ANATOMY OF A CAREER

Which is the more valuable attribute for a National Basketball Association player: youth or experience? When do professional basketball players reach their peaks? To work up a statistical profile of the average 10-year career, we studied the 28 players who had played at least 500 minutes in each of their first 10 seasons by the end of the 1989-90 season. Mo Cheeks, Wayne Cooper, Dave Corzine, Pat Cummings, Adrian Dantley, Walter Davis, James Donaldson, T.R. Dunn, Alex English, Mike Gmurski, David Greenwood, Bill Hanzlik, Jerome Henderson, Dennis Johnson, Magic Johnson, Bill Laimbeer, John Long, Rick Mahorn, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, Jim Paxson, Robert Reid, Tree Rollins, Purvis Short, Jack Sikma, Reggie Theus, Kiki Vandeweghe, and Mike Woodson. (Caldwell Jones and Moses Malone also qualified, but weren't included because blocked shot, steal, and offensive and defensive rebound totals aren't available for the early years of their careers.)

As you can see, the greatest number of players tend to peak sometime between their third and seventh seasons. Certain skills based on raw physical ability—such as steals, shot blocking, and rebounding—are at their strongest early, while aspects characterized by veteran savvy, such as free throw shooting and assists, can blossom later.

On the average, players play their greatest number of minutes in season No. 6. That might indicate that coaches believe that's when players are at their peak.

SEASON STATISTICS										
Statistic	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Points*	20.6	22.6	22.6	23.2	23.6	23.3	23.6	22.9	21.6	21.7
FG%	.483	.501	.501	.500	.507	.498	.499	.494	.480	.480
FT%	.736	.750	.765	.781	.775	.790	.806	.813	.809	.802
Off. Reb.*	3.69	3.60	3.35	3.29	3.06	2.95	2.92	2.71	2.59	2.64
Def. Reb.*	6.73	6.76	6.94	6.68	6.67	6.44	6.34	6.19	6.06	6.10
Tot. Reb.*	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.0	9.7	9.4	9.3	8.9	8.7	8.7
Assists*	3.72	4.29	4.68	4.65	4.55	5.06	5.06	5.27	5.01	4.60
Blocks*	1.54	1.53	1.57	1.38	1.36	1.26	1.25	1.14	1.02	1.15
Steals*	1.70	1.79	1.76	1.67	1.69	1.60	1.58	1.54	1.49	1.46
Fouls*	5.67	5.36	4.96	4.96	4.62	4.56	4.46	4.38	4.41	4.54
Minutes	22.0	26.9	28.8	29.6	31.2	31.6	31.7	30.6	29.5	27.6

Each season was ranked then against all the other seasons in each of the 11 categories.

SEASON RANKINGS										
Statistic	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Points*	10	6	7	4	1	3	2	5	9	8
FG%	8	2	3	4	1	6	5	7	9	10
FT%	10	9	8	6	7	5	3	1	2	4
Off. Reb.*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	9
Def. Reb.*	3	21	1	4	5	6	7	8	10	9
Tot. Reb.*	2	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	9
Assists*	10	9	5	6	8	2	3	1	4	7
Blocks*	2	3	1	4	5	6	7	8	10	9
Steals*	3	1	2	5	4	6	7	8	9	10
Fouls*	10	9	8	7	6	5	3	1	2	4
Minutes	10	9	7	5	3	2	1	4	6	8
Total	69	53	48	53	50	53	52	59	81	87

\*—Per 48 minutes played  
By Greg Thomas

## LET ECK DO IT

In the old days, the ace of a pitching staff would take the mound every four or five days and give the bullpen a rest—but not any more. The complete game has gone the way of the dinosaur.

Last season gave us three 20-game winners who completed less than one-third of their cumulative starts. In fact, Oakland's Bob Welch set a new record by posting 27 wins and only two complete games. Listed below are baseball's 20-game winners with the fewest complete games.

Player, Team (Year)	Wins	CG
Bob Welch, A's (1990)	27	2
Stan Bahnsen, White Sox (1972)	21	5
Gaylord Perry, Padres (1978)	21	5
Tom Browning, Reds (1985)	20	6
John Candelaria, Pirates (1977)	20	6
Frank Viola, Twins (1988)	24	7
Clyde Wright, Angels (1970)	22	7
Roger Clemens, Red Sox (1990)	21	7
Frank Viola, Mets (1990)	20	7

By Jerry Tapp

## NOT OLDER, JUST BETTER

The mark of long-term excellence in any sport is continual growth: every team wants its players, even the stars, to keep striving for greater accomplishment. Listed below are the 14 National Basketball Association players who have raised their scoring averages in each of the last three seasons.

Player, Team	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	Total Improvement
Mark Price, Cavaliers	6.9	16.0	18.9	19.6	12.7
Jeff Hornacek, Suns	5.3	9.5	13.5	17.6	12.3
Dell Curry, Hornets	4.9	10.0	11.9	16.0	11.1
Karl Malone, Jazz	21.7	27.7	29.1	31.0	9.3
John Stockton, Jazz	7.9	14.7	17.1	17.2	9.3
Tyrone Corbin, Timberwolves	6.4	7.4	8.2	14.7	8.3
Wayman Tisdale, Kings	14.5	16.1	17.5	22.3	7.8
Sam Vincent, Magic	3.7	8.0	9.4	11.2	7.5
Craig Ehlo, Cavaliers	6.2	7.1	7.4	13.6	7.4
Joe Dumars, Pistons	11.8	14.2	17.2	17.8	6.0
Terry Teagle, Lakers	11.2	12.6	15.2	16.1	4.9
Danny Ainge, Trail Blazers	14.8	15.7	17.5	17.9	3.1
Derek Harper, Mavericks	16.0	17.0	17.3	18.0	2.0
James Worthy, Lakers	19.4	19.7	20.5	21.1	1.7

By Greg Thomas

## TO CATCH A THIEF

A stolen base can give a team a tremendous lift, just as being caught stealing can really deflate a team's spirit. Naturally, therefore, all would-be thieves try to maximize thefts and minimize being thrown out. By that standard, Eric Davis of the Cincinnati Reds is baseball's best burglar; in his career, he has been successful on 86.9% of his base-stealing attempts. Listed below are the top 10 active base-stealers in terms of success percentage (minimum of 100 career stolen bases).

Rank	Player, Team	SB	CS	Pct.
1	Eric Davis, Reds	233	35	86.9
2	Tim Lincecum, White Sox	634	106	85.7
3	Willie Wilson, A's	612	119	83.7
4	Vince Coleman, Mets	549	115	82.7
5	Barry Larkin, Reds	109	23	82.6
6	Rickey Henderson, A's	936	211	81.6
7	Ozzie Smith, Cardinals	464	111	80.7
8	Lenny Dykstra, Phillies	166	41	80.2
9	Gary Redus, Pirates	290	72	80.1
10	Kirk Gibson, Royals	235	60	79.7

By Philip Meneely

## ROUNDBALL RAINBOWS

As the three-point field goal becomes entrenched in the National Basketball Association, more players are willing to take the extra risk for the extra payoff. During the 1989-90 season, 10 NBA players put up at least 30% of their shots from beyond the circle, led by Craig Hodges of the Chicago Bulls. Listed below are the players who attempted 30% or more of their shots from the three-point line in 1989-90.

Rank	Player, Team	FGA	3FGA	Pct.
1	Craig Hodges, Bulls	331	181	54.7
2	Richard Anderson, Hornets	211	100	47.4
3	Michael Adams, Nuggets	989	432	43.7
4	Trent Tucker, Knicks	606	245	40.4
5	Mark Price, Cavaliers	1,066	374	35.1
6	Steve Kerr, Cavaliers	432	144	33.3
7	Darrell Griffith, Jazz	649	215	33.1
8	Dana Barros, SuperSonics	738	238	32.2
9	Michael Cooper, Lakers	493	157	31.8
10	Rod Higgins, Warriors	632	193	30.6

By Jerry Tapp





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- ☐ 7213 Randall Cunningham
- ☐ 7259 Mike Quick
- ☐ 7234 Joe Montana
- ☐ 7228 Jerry Rice
- ☐ 7253 Roger Craig
- ☐ 7255 Mark Bavaro
- ☐ 7244 Phil Simms
- ☐ 7224 Lawrence Taylor
- ☐ 7255 Mark Bavaro
- ☐ 7276 Al Toon
- ☐ 7236 Barry Sanders
- ☐ 7274 Warren Moon
- ☐ 7241 Don Majkowski
- ☐ 7222 Marcus Allen
- ☐ 7221 Jim Everett
- ☐ 7272 Curt Warner
- ☐ 7294 Steve Largent
- ☐ 7297 Herschel Walker
- ☐ 7261 Anthony Carter

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- ☐ 7511 Mark McGwire
- ☐ 7558 Rickey Henderson
- ☐ 7529 Wally Joyner
- ☐ 7539 Jim Abbott
- ☐ 7544 Dale Murphy
- ☐ 7546 Paul Molitor
- ☐ 7540 Gary Sheffield
- ☐ 7593 Ozzie Smith
- ☐ 7514 Tom Brunansky
- ☐ 7598 Vince Coleman
- ☐ 7574 Ryne Sandberg
- ☐ 7595 Andre Dawson
- ☐ 7508 Mark Grace
- ☐ 7504 Jerome Walton
- ☐ 7552 Kirk Gibson
- ☐ 7512 Orel Hershiser
- ☐ 7592 Will Clark
- ☐ 7533 Kevin Mitchell
- ☐ 7516 Ken Griffey, Jr.
- ☐ 7575 Dwight Gooden
- ☐ 7564 Darryl Strawberry
- ☐ 7520 Greg Jefferies
- ☐ 7550 Kevin Elster

- ☐ 7503 Bobby Bonilla
- ☐ 7513 Andy Van Slyke
- ☐ 7590 Eric Davis
- ☐ 7500 Chris Sabo
- ☐ 7534 Barry Larkin
- ☐ 7583 Roger Clemens
- ☐ 7528 Wade Boggs
- ☐ 7515 Mike Greenwell
- ☐ 7522 George Brett
- ☐ 7530 Tom Gordon
- ☐ 7519 Bo Jackson
- ☐ 7587 Kirby Puckett
- ☐ 7579 Don Mattingly

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- ☐ 7492 Mark Price
- ☐ 7433 Larry Bird
- ☐ 7460 Kevin McHale
- ☐ 7447 Dominique Wilkins
- ☐ 7456 Spud Webb
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- ☐ 7488 J.R. Reid
- ☐ 7472 John Stockton
- ☐ 7469 Karl Malone
- ☐ 7449 Danny Ainge
- ☐ 7403 Patrick Ewing
- ☐ 7479 Mark Jackson
- ☐ 7474 Byron Scott
- ☐ 7443 Magic Johnson
- ☐ 7446 James Worthy
- ☐ 7473 Roy Tarpley

- ☐ 7480 Dennis Rodman
- ☐ 7493 Isiah Thomas
- ☐ 7489 Joe Dumars
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**R**oseanne Barr didn't actually sing that national anthem in San Diego? Really? Well, who did?

F.M., FLAT ROCK, MICH.

Milli Vanilli.

**W**hat was the final outcome of that business involving the Los Angeles Laker and that escort service?

T.A., CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS

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**E**ric Davis is angry at Marge Schott again. What's the matter this time?

L.P., GAFFNEY, S.C.

Oh, he cut his finger sliding into second base, and now she wants him to pay for the Band-Aid.

**M**arcel Dionne was my favorite hockey player, and I'm glad the Los Angeles Kings retired his number. Say, what's Dionne doing these days?

D.F., MOUNT KISCO, N.Y.

He went back to his old job, singing with the Belmonats.

**B**en Johnson got back into action, preparing for the 1992 Olympics. Notice anything different about him?

C.L., FEDERAL HEIGHTS, COLO.

Yeah. The good news is that he doesn't use that stuff he was using anymore. The bad news is that he weighs 98 pounds.

**P**aul Westhead had some unusual ideas as to how the Denver Nuggets should play basketball. What was the weirdest thing he had the Nuggets do?

O.W., FIVE POINTS, N.M.

Install a 2.4-second clock.

**D**oesn't Darryl Strawberry miss all those airplanes buzzing over his head during home games?

E.G., SPANISH FORK, UTAH

Hardly. Go ask Darryl what's louder, LaGuardia or Lasorda.

**A**re there any more Ismail brothers at home like The Rocket and The Missile?

L.H., HIGHVIEW, KY.

A lot more, man. There's Punjib (The

Bazooka) Ismail, who will return kicks for Penn State; Kallme (The Space Shuttle) Ismail, who will be a running back for Purdue; Rasheed (Skylab) Ismail, who will catch passes for Arizona State; Joe Bob (The Flying Saucer) Ismail, who runs a truck-stop diner in Texas; and Lockheed (The Paper Airplane) Ismail, who works for NASA and thinks football is a waste of time.

**H**as Sam Wyche of the Cincinnati Bengals changed his stance on any of those objections of his that got him fined?

D.T., VIVIAN, LA.

No. Sam still doesn't think women belong in the locker room. He also would rather bleed than let a woman doctor operate on him, would rather go barefoot than let a woman shoe salesperson measure his feet, and would prefer to stay at hotels that have separate him-and-her swimming pools.

**W**hat's the theme of next season's University of Michigan homecoming party?

G.M., SCAPPOOSE, ORE.

"Dances with Wolverines."

**E**leven touchdown passes in one game! That's what that University of Houston quarterback did. But my question is: Why?

J.P., EDMOND, OKLA.

Oh, those darned Cougars just feel no lead is safe until they can reach that magic 80-point mark.

**I** was curious what San Diegans do during the hockey and basketball seasons, since they don't have National Hockey League or National Basketball Association teams.

J.C., MARBLEHEAD, MASS.

They do the same thing San Diego's football and baseball teams do: Not much.

**H**erschel Walker has had an up-and-down career. How are things going for him?

M.L., YORK HARBOR, MAINE

Not so good, I'm afraid. The United States just traded him to Norway for nine bobsled-ders.

**A**ndre Agassi—exactly where does that guy shop for those clothes, anyway?

M.C., KENNETT, MO.

His agent runs a men's clothing shop just outside Las Vegas called Andre the Client.

The only people who shop there are Andre and a bunch of rodeo clowns.

**S**o what is this great surprise the Seattle Mariners supposedly have in store for us this season?

J.L., SHOW LOW, ARIZ.

Ken Griffey III.

**C**uba is supposed to be the host to the Pan-American Games this summer. What will be the most difficult event be?

T.M., JESUP, GA.

Water polo in the Bay of Pigs. Yuck.

**G**et out of here. Brian Bosworth didn't really have his name legally changed to BOZworth, did he?

B.S., ISSAQUAH, WASH.

He most certainly did. And his relatives are so delighted, they're having their addresses legally changed, and not giving Brian the new ones.

**F**lorence Griffith-Joyner had a baby, huh? Gee, that's just great. Any problems develop yet?

A.J., GOLETA, CALIF.

Just where to buy those one-legged diapers.

**D**id the National Football League do anything special for our armed forces and soldiers abroad?

P.T., REISTERSTOWN, MD

Yes. They made sure that all of our troops did not have to watch highlights from most of the Super Bowls.

**W**ould you happen to remember who won last year's World Series of Golf?

C.S., PALATKA, FLA.

All I can remember is that the players from Oakland got swept in four straight rounds.

**I**f you were running the Detroit Tigers, what would you do to improve the club?

G.A., DRAYTON, MICH.

Well, the first thing I'd do is get my butt over to Japan and see if there's a Cecil Hitter. ■

*In a fever to know what really goes on in the world of sports? Will you feel awful until you find out? Send for a diagnosis to: The Good Doctor, 990 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201—then wait patiently.*



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**EASTON**



# THE FAN

By RICK DEES

## Learning From The Best

I'M A HUGE L.A. KINGS fan. I love hockey, and I love Wayne Gretzky, who's become a close personal friend in the last three years. Wayne's whole attitude toward life and sports is wonderful.

He wears a size 9 shoe, but he puts on a size 7½ hockey skate. I said, "Wayne, how do you do that? And why?" It hurts him so much that he has to have his feet rubbed for 10 minutes after every period. He said that it makes him feel like he can skate better and cut faster.

I thought he was joking at first, but he was serious. He wants to do whatever it takes to be the best, The Great One. And he is. It hurts getting into the size 7½ skates, but he does it. The amazing thing to me is that when he's out there playing, he's always in pain. Always.

I've studied Wayne and other hockey players, and I've found that his eye-hand coordination is just the quickest that it could possibly be. As opponents go to steal the puck, Wayne's moving it just beyond their stick. He's got incredible peripheral vision.

I like to get into the human side of sport, into the personalities, and discover what makes an athlete excel. Every time I see Wayne play I learn something.

The way I look at it is that whatever it takes to be the best you can be, go ahead and do it. You don't want to look back on your life years from now and say, "Gee, if I had only worn shoes that were two sizes too small, I could have been a hit." As a matter of fact, I'm sitting here right now in sneakers two sizes too small. Just kidding!

Wayne's attitude toward kids and what a person gets out of being an athlete in any sport is wonderful. He talks about the fact that it teaches you self-respect.



*What has Gretzky taught me? Do whatever it takes to be the best. You don't want to look back and say, 'Gee, If I'd only worn shoes two sizes too small, I could have been a hit.'*

One thing that I noticed about Wayne is just phenomenal: He signs his name virtually from the moment he gets out of his car until the moment he goes out on the ice, and he never says, "Get away from me; stop it; move out of the way." Nothing like that.

He signs "Wayne Gretzky" on ice hockey sticks, on gloves, on pucks, on notebook paper, on arms, on the inner thighs of women. He signs his name everywhere and never complains and never says anything but, "Thank you. I appreciate the fact that you like ice hockey."

I think his becoming that kind of person comes from his family. He had a close relationship with his parents and grandparents. He saw them take of their lives, and saw them carve a big chunk out of their lives and give to him. And he thinks, "Gee, if they did that for me, I want to pass the baton on to other people."

The thing that I like to do is very biblical. I have a very strong, spiritual belief in God and what he does in everyone's life. I find that people who aren't in contact with the spiritual side of life are just here for what happens on earth, and that's not a real happy

existence. So what I try to do, when I try to do anything for people or give money to this cause or that cause or give of myself, I try to do it anonymously.

And I love the people who do that. Rather than jump in there and do it for the publicity, I really admire the people who give anonymously. I see some of the superstars such as Wayne and Magic Johnson do that, and they don't really ask for anything in return. They just do it and it comes back.

I love to go up to people and add something to their lives that they didn't think was going to happen. That's pretty much the way I approach my TV show.

My audience is just whoever's awake when I come on. I don't care what age they are, what race they are, what be-

liefs they have, what intellect they have. If I can just hold on to them for a few minutes and do something that makes them say, "Gee, that was clever" or "That put a little smile on my face," that's all I want to do.

I'm giving all my attention to the show these days. If there's any pain involved it's my not seeing much of my family and working long, long hours. But I want to give the show the care and nurturing that it deserves, and so that's why this is all I do right now. I would like to still have the show years down the line.

I was born in Jacksonville, Fla., but grew up in Greensboro, N.C. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, so the Tar Heels are in my blood. But there's a special place in my heart for hockey and for Wayne Gretzky. He's certainly a good friend, and I've learned an awful lot about hockey from him, but mostly I've learned an awful lot about life.

*Years after he attained cult status with "Disco Duck," all you night owls out there can catch RICK DEES on his late-night talk show, ABC's "Into the Night With Rick Dees."*



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